

the other press

The Douglas College autonomous student newspaper since 1976 **Issue 5** Volume 28



Selling back your books
One way to get a fair price



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Oscar season is upon us!
Justin's picks

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Why X-Box?
Gamer's review

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We receive our funding from a student levy collected every semester at registration, and from local and national advertising revenue. The Other Press is a member of the Canadian University Press (CUP), a cooperative of student newspapers from across Canada. We adhere to CUP's Statement of Common Principles and Code of Ethics—except when it suits us not to. The Other Press reserves the right to choose what to publish, and will not publish material that is racist, sexist or homophobic. Submissions may be edited for clarity and brevity if necessary.

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The Other Press Submission Guidelines

The weekly deadline for submissions is Wednesday at 6:00p.m. for publication the following Wednesday. Letters to the Editor, vacant sections and "time sensitive" articles (weekend news or sports and cultural reviews) will be accepted until Saturday midnight and can be submitted to the editor, Adam Honsinger at:

the_editor57@hotmail.com

All other submissions should be forwarded to the appropriate section editor below. Please include your name, phone number/email address, the word count and submit via email as an MS Word.doc attachment to the attention of the appropriate editor.

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Culture	Kerry Evans
Features	Sven Bellamy
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Used Textbooks at a Fair Price?

student-run website one way to sell your books

Eileen Velthuis
Section Editor

student-run textbook website is gaining popularity, will it change the way students buy and sell their books?

Last year, Kwantlen University College business student Mike Robson was fed up with the price of college textbooks and the small percentage of money received when selling books back.

Robson says that last year he placed posters all over his pool, telling students that he would "buy their used books for 50 percent of the original price (as opposed to 20 percent at the bookstore) and resell them to someone else for 75 percent."

His idea took off.

Eventually the volume got to be so high, that I seriously considered starting a website, with an online database...not really a new idea, but the alternatives at the time were very weak and not managed properly," he explained.

In December 2001, the site was launched as studentvalue. This past October, Robson renamed and relunched the website as <www.bcbookworm.com> with hopes of changing the way students buy and sell their textbooks—or at least making it a better deal for students.

Robson is a student himself, and believes people should get a fair price back for their books. He claims

students can save up to 35 percent by using BC Bookworm rather than using the current systems such as used book buybacks.

Most schools have their own systems for buying back textbooks. At Douglas College for instance, at the beginning of each semester the bookstore holds a few used book buyback days at each campus. Another option for buying or selling books is the textbook consignment store run by the Douglas Students' Union out of the New Westminster campus DSU building. While each option will get students a portion of their money back, Robson says that the free, student-to-student system on his website gets them the best price back on their books.

According to Robson, when he launched the site Kwantlen's student association was very helpful in adopting it almost immediately and by putting a link to BC Bookworm from their site. For Robson, that was just the beginning. As a way to get the word out about this unique, free site, which has just recently registered its first 100,000 hit month, he has tried contacting schools and student unions all over the province about the benefits of fairer prices for students.

"I've contacted pretty much every school in BC. And it's not like I just called them once and then forgot about it. It's always the [smaller] schools that are really accommodating. The big schools don't really want to talk about

it...they don't want to know that there's no middleman hiking up the price [at BC Bookworm.]"

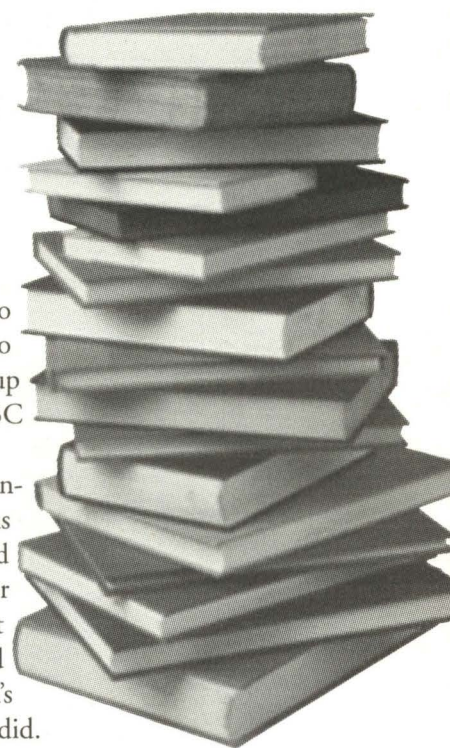
Robson said he contacted the Douglas Students' Union and is waiting to hear from them about linking his site and theirs, like Kwantlen's Student Association did.

Local student Alexis Lesperance doesn't like the book buyback systems that local schools currently offer.

"I can't believe the schools give such a low price back. Tuition's already high enough without worrying about the price of books."

Lesperance thinks the student-to-student buy and sell system, like BC Bookworm, is one way to get better value out of your books.

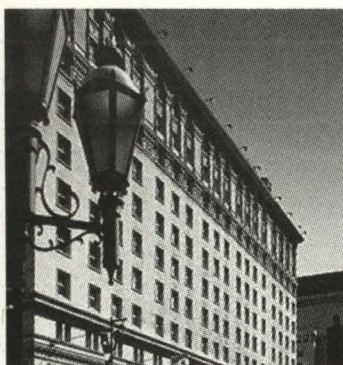
"I'm definitely going to use it next semester. That's way better than the book buyback, a much fairer price," she said.



Protest at the Ritz

anti-FTAA demonstrators block hotel entrance, condemn trade minister

David Wachsmuth
McGill Daily



MONTREAL (CUP)—Checking into a hotel can be enough of a hassle without a protest outside. But when a hundred anti-FTAA activists barricaded the front doors and are facing off against police and security guards, even the most determined tourist might be deterred.

Protesters opposing the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) gathered last Friday afternoon outside the Ritz Carlton Hotel, where Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien met with his provincial counterparts to discuss the upcoming agreement.

Nearly one hundred activists sang songs, beat drums, and barred the main doors to the Ritz Carlton with slats of wood taken from their signs and placards, forcing a number of people to find alternate entrances to the building.

A query of "how do I get in?" from a guest at the Ritz was greeted with a shrug by first-year law student Jared Will, who was optimistic about the demonstration's effect despite the relatively small number of people present.

"You've seen the amount of media here. They've mainly noticed why we're here," Will said. Reporters from CBC, *The Globe and Mail*, and *Montreal Gazette* were on scene.

The demonstration, which began at 12:30p.m. and continued past 2:30p.m., was generally peaceful, although one protestor was shoved violently by a hotel security guard who was helping a person enter the hotel.

Throughout the protest, hotel security guards removed the wooden obstructions holding the doors closed a number of times, but the slats were quickly replaced by demonstrators each time. At 1:45p.m., two Montreal police officers moved protesters away from the hotel entrance and began to escort people into the building who had been deterred by the barricade.

Concordia Student Union Executive Member Yves Engler, who was present at the demonstration, singled out Minister Pettigrew for being inconsistent in his message about Canada's involvement with the FTAA.

"Pettigrew has this tendency to say one thing to one crowd and one thing to another. He's two-faced. At the end of the day, he's one of the biggest proponents of neo-liberal ideas," said Engler.

The demonstration was organized by the Montreal-based Solidarity Network to Stop the FTAA.

Douglas College

Women's
Centre

Celebrates the

Unsung Heroine Awards
Friday, March 7, 2003



www.douglas.bc.ca

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700 Royal Avenue, New Westminster, BC, V3L 5B2
e-mail womctr@douglas.bc.ca
fax 604-527-5095

by Friday, February 28, 2003

For more information call 604-527-5148
or e-mail womctr@douglas.bc.ca



When I first came to Douglas College she made me feel so welcome by...

Produced by the communications & marketing office 2/10/03

Forget About that Vasectomy, Birth Control for Guys on the Way

Drug originally intended for rare genetic disorder

Stephanie San Miguel
The Ryersonian

TORONTO (CUP)—A compound resembling ordinary sugar may be the ultimate male contraceptive, a recent study by British researchers found. Men seeking an alternative to condoms and vasectomies may soon have another method to prevent pregnancy in their partners.

"This is a rare find, as there are very few compounds with such properties," said Aarnoud van der Spoel, a researcher at the Glycobiology Institute at the University of Oxford in England where the study took place. The compound, N-butyldeoxynojirimycin or NB-DNJ for short, rendered male mice infertile by deforming their sperm. But the effects only lasted as long as the mice were given the sugar. Their sperm returned to normal within weeks.

There were also few side effects of the drug. "The unique thing is that NB-DNJ has already been extensively evaluated in various mammals, and has passed standard toxicity tests in humans," said van der Spoel in an e-mail interview. The contraceptive effects of NB-DNJ were noticed while the researchers were testing it as a treatment for Gaucher's disease, a rare genetic disorder in humans.

Intrigued, the scientists decided to look specifically at the compound's contraceptive properties in mice. The results of the study were published last December in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

The recent findings at Oxford are exciting because "it's a new avenue," said Bernard Robaire, professor of pharmacology and therapeutics at McGill University in Montreal and a leading expert on the pharmaceutical causes of male infertility. "Maybe this one will be the one that does it. It's an exciting new lead. It may do the trick," he said.

Robaire said finding an effective male contraceptive has been difficult since research in the field began in the 1960s. He noted that developing a contraceptive for men is more difficult than for women because, whereas female contraception involves dealing with one egg at a time, male contraceptives would have to affect a hundred million sperm per day.

Male contraceptives have been developed over the years, but many have never made it past the trial stage because they could not be guaranteed effective and had potentially serious side effects.

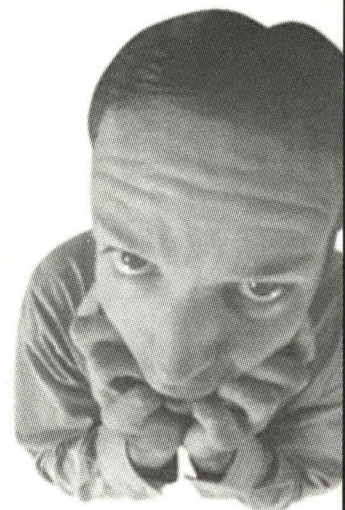
"Many (male contraceptive therapies) have been tested 95 to 98 percent effective," said Robaire.

"If you get rid of 95 percent (of eggs) in ovulation, you get a 95 percent decrease in fertility," he said. But a 95 percent reduction in viable sperm still leaves millions of sperm available for fertilization.

In the 1970s, researchers began studying hormone-based therapies that would suppress the production of sperm in men. Recent studies on hormone-based contraceptives using a combination of testosterone and progesterin have been "really promising," said Robaire.

Both van der Spoel and Robaire believe a hormone-based male contraceptive will be available within the next five years. Though not likely to be in pill form, it would probably involve injections of hormones every few months to remain effective. But van der Spoel said it is still too soon to tell when non-hormonal contraceptives might be developed for the market.

In the meantime, the researchers at Oxford will continue to study the long-term effects of NB-DNJ on men. A study on how the drug affects fertility in men is planned.



Douglas College

Women's Centre

Invites you to attend two

Single Parent Forums
For Women and Men

Where: Douglas College, Room 4810
700 Royal Avenue, New Westminster
When: 9am-4pm, March 15 & March 29
Childminding: Provided if pre-registered. Space is limited, so register early. Lunch will be provided; you provide two snacks for your child(ren).

Registration Form
take one...

Saturday, March 15, 2003

9-9:30am Coffee and muffins
9:45am-12:30pm (10 min break at 11:30am)
Synthia Sheridan, a New Westminster lawyer, will answer questions and concerns that often come up for single parents.
12:30-1pm Lunch
1:15-4pm Debbie Smith, from the Step by Step Child Development Society, will share the step program in a condensed version. The program will provide valuable information on parenting children with challenging behaviors.

Saturday, March 29, 2003

9-9:30am Coffee and muffins
9:45am-12:30pm (10 min break at 11:30am)
Carol Howarth, instructor from Douglas College, will share valuable information focusing on wellness and being a single parent. This will be a fun, informative and practical look at wellness as part of everyday life.
12:30-1pm Lunch
1:15-4pm A family maintenance enforcement professional will discuss how to access the program and how it works and answer questions and concerns single parents often face.

Organized by the Douglas College Women's Centre

Sponsored by the Ministry of Women's Equality

Douglas College
Women's Centre

Single Parent Forums 2003
— REGISTRATION FORM

Date(s) attending: (circle one or both)
March 15 March 29

Name: _____
Address: _____
Telephone: _____
E-mail: _____

Childminding required? Yes No
If yes, please list the name(s) and age(s) and any allergies of the child(ren): _____

Register by e-mailing womctr@douglas.bc.ca, or by completing this form and faxing to 604-527-5095 or mailing to: Douglas College Women's Centre, Room 4810, 700 Royal Ave, New Westminster, BC, V3L 5S2

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Broad's Eye View

A.L.
P Columnist

Valentine's Day has come and gone, and now we have to wait until Easter for another excuse to gorge ourselves on chocolate. I always find this lull in holidays depressing, so in an attempt to lighten the mood, I'm gonna tell you about my night with St. Nick Big Dick and Pony. It was a dark and stormy night in December that I was invited to partake in the birthday celebrations of a dear friend. It was her 26th birthday and as I am usually a bit of a lame-ass—always retiring early every time we step out together—I promised to go along with whatever she had planned. Guilt makes me do stupid things. Turns out she had reserved a table at a local bar that was hosting Ladies' Night."

Now, I knew full well that "Ladies' Night" meant male strippers and I was not looking forward to it. Up until that weekend I had managed to avoid ever seeing a naked man dance around on a stage—and I was none too keen on the idea. But it was her birthday, and the more I protested, the stuffier I felt. She had a point—I had never seen, so how could I judge? In retrospect that is a stupid, stupid argument. She had no point—I am just a sucker. I know what a naked man looks like. I know what a man dancing looks like. I know that the combination is not a turn-on for me. I can't even bear to watch a fully-clothed man shake it up on the dance floor without feeling a

smidgen embarrassed. Ah, but like I said—guilt is a terrible and amazing force.

Anyway, so we finished dinner and a group of us "ladies" headed on over to the club for "Ladies' Night". There were perhaps 30 women in the room. A couple of stag-ettes, a 19th birthday party, some sad-looking women with low-cut shirts, low-rise jeans and bodies incapable of accommodating such outfits, and us—a motley crew of nine women (two visibly pregnant).

Our reserved table was directly up front—sniffer's row, if you please. I was horribly uncomfortable, perched on the edge of the dance floor, as I took note of the exits and washrooms. A pomaded deejay came bounding around trying to whip up some enthusiasm in the crowd. Our table was decidedly lame—made up of the jaded, the bitchy, and the mortified. Deejay, who was hooked up to a headset mic, tried to get us to scream and clap—threatening to delay the show until we did. Feeling pressured by the offensively underdressed and unbecomingly eager women seated behind us, we acquiesced with a pathetic chorus of "who-hoos." He looked annoyed as he twirled away, shimmying over to the raunchy stag-ette across from us. They were much more accommodating—screaming, pounding their feet and chugging Bacardi Silvers.

After a few more agonizing attempts to whip the women into a mad frenzy, Deejay announced that the dancers were on their way. Cue the cherry-scented bar smoke and what to my wondering eyes should appear—but three miniature men and a luke-warm beer. It was painful—they were performing this funny little choreographed dance and they were all very short, but they were clothed. So far, so good. The tiniest of the three did a little bump and grind in our direction and I couldn't help but burst out laughing. He was so tiny! My friend was nursing a drink and talking to an old friend, and the rest of the birthday guests were either chatting or staring disinterestedly at spots on the floor or the walls. After receiving no acknowledgment for his efforts, our tiny dancer looking as though he had been slapped, gyrated away. But he would have his revenge...

Flash-forward past a few stupid drinking games and another pathetic attempt to rile up the masses, and we come to the first actual show. Tiny Dancer sauntered onto the stage to the booming introduction, "Ladies, let's hear it for St. Nick Big Dick!" Wearing leather short shorts, vest and boots—all trimmed with white marabou, and an adorable little hat—I have to say he was the funniest thing I had seen in a very long time. He taunted and teased the women on the other side of the bar—shaking his little bottom and tossing his little head—and was warmly received. The cold front from our side was hard to ignore. I saw him look over and steel himself. I didn't like his expression—or the way he looked in those short-shorts—so I quickly excused myself and ran to the sanctuary of the smoking room.

I escaped just in time. Tiny Dancer wasn't going out like that. Nuh, uh. From my vantage point I was able to safely watch the scene as it unfolded. Moving quickly (as small men tend to do—a scurrying action, really,) he grabbed hold of one of the women I had met at the restaurant only hours ago, and yanked her out of her seat and on to the dance floor. She never knew what hit her. Within seconds he had her face down on the floor, where

he proceeded to mount her and simulate rear-entry sex. It couldn't have lasted more than a minute, but it felt like forever. She was humiliated and angry. Tiny Dancer, aka St. Nick Big Dick, seemed quite pleased with himself—he was no jolly old elf, rather a wee man with wee man syndrome. Disgusting.

I would like to tell you we packed it in and left in a huff. But alas, no one—not even Tiny Dancer's recent victim—was hip to the idea of leaving. The drinks were cheap and besides, "Pony" was up next. I had no idea who Pony was, but according to my friend, he's a regular dancer with a decent fan base. Reluctantly leaving the Plexiglas confines of the smoking room, tired of pretending to smoke, I returned to our table as Pony made his way front and centre. Some of the women at our table perked up when they saw him and one birthday guest informed me that not only was he the only black dancer that night, but that he does "freaky things with his dick." Hmm, why oh why didn't I run the hell out of there right there and then? A combination of peer pressure and cheap draft might account for it—and I suppose curiosity.

Well, I didn't leave, and I guess I deserve to be haunted by the image now cached in my memory bank for all eternity. As luck would have it, Pony's showcase talent is tucking his penis and testicles under and back so they face directly behind him. I don't know if you're getting the visual here, so allow me to elaborate. With his "parcel" held firmly back between clenched thighs, Pony then performed a little jig—pausing every few moments to shrug, scratch his head and peer sheepishly down at the smoothness of his crotch. Did I mention he was dressed as an elf?

Yeah, so that pretty much did it for me. Luckily my friend's drunken cousin, in her eagerness to cheer on Pony, spilled an entire drink all over me. I had a guaranteed out. Soaked in some maraschino cherry-laced confection, I wished my friend a happy birthday and ran for home.

As I trudged up the hill to my apartment, I worked really hard to forget about what I had seen, but my mind was spinning with greasy images of marabou and contorted penises. I felt so incredibly turned-off at that moment. I consider myself to be a fairly sexual person, but what I had just witnessed sent my libido crashing. I love men and I love their bodies, but ugh—at that moment I never wanted to lay eyes on man-flesh again. Panicking, I forced myself to conjure favourable images of masculinity: five o'clock shadow, the swooping curve of an Adam's apple, calves with hair on them (not shaved and slicked with oil) and that little sliver of flesh glimpsed when a shirt rides up. Ah, the good stuff. By the time I put my key in the door, I had talked myself down.

Now that some time has passed, I'm not sorry I went. It was an experience, and at least I can say with some authority that there are better ways to celebrate special occasions than with male strippers. The best part is I no longer "owe" my friend; in fact she is now indebted to me. I cannot wait to drag her out of her comfort zone and subject her to an evening I know she will hate. What shall it be? A night of Lindy hop or maybe some live music with the corduroy and cardigan crowd? Oh the possibilities.



Science Matters

Taking Advantage of Kyoto



David Suzuki

Round about this time of the year, every year, the federal government hunkers down to prepare the release of its annual budget. And round about this time of year, every year, interest groups across the country fire out "wish lists" on how they would like our government to collect and spend taxpayers' money.

But this year is a little different. You see, this budget will be the first since Canada ratified the Kyoto treaty on climate change. Only eight weeks have passed since this historic moment, but Canada has changed. We've taken some responsibility for our actions and we've grown up a little bit. We've promised the world that we will reduce our greenhouse gas emissions that are causing global warming. We've set targets and dates to reach them.

What we don't have yet is an action plan on how to get there. That's why this budget is so important. The budget sets the country's priorities for the coming year. And how we use our limited financial resources says something about who we are as a nation. Arguably, we have never faced a bigger challenge to the long term health and welfare of our citizens than we do from climate change. How we choose to meet this challenge will help define us. If we continue with business as usual—as though nothing has happened—and put off dealing with global warming for another year, we will miss an incredible opportunity. We will miss the chance to reaffirm Canada's commitment to the environment and to international cooperation. We will spew more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, which will remain there for hundreds of years and make it more difficult to reach our goals. And we will miss out on the economic and health advantages of becoming more energy efficient.

On the other hand, if we build a strategy into the budget that takes advantage of the Kyoto treaty, we will set the groundwork for a smooth transition to a cleaner, more efficient economy. Such a strategy does not mean having to reinvent the wheel. Solutions are out there, we just need to take advantage of them. Rather than just throwing around token sums of money to make it appear as though we are doing something. We need a concerted strategy that makes becoming cleaner and more efficient, an ongoing part of everything we do.

We could start with our homes and businesses—where we live and work. Right now, they waste lots of energy, but that's because there are few incentives for people to

change. Establishing low interest loans and financial assistance to make our homes and commercial buildings more energy tight (as is being done successfully by the City of Toronto) would provide encouragement—and save us all money in the long run.

Encouraging clean, renewable energy sources is another good strategy. Developing these sources of electricity—like wind, solar power and micro hydro—would benefit Canadian industries, reduce air pollution and cut our greenhouse gas emissions. We could encourage these industries by phasing out preferential tax incentives for fossil fuel exploration and nuclear power. Over the next four years, this would free up more than \$3 billion that could be invested in energy efficiency, conservation of renewable energy projects.

Transportation makes up almost a quarter of Canada's greenhouse gas emissions, so a national plan for sustainable transportation is essential. Such a plan would allocate funding to urban transit improvement, change tax structures to benefit the more efficient shipping of freight by rail and provide incentives that would encourage citizens to buy fuel-efficient vehicles.

Canada is a different place than it was last year at this time. In fact, Canada is a different place than it was just two months ago. In ratifying Kyoto, we took a step towards a cleaner, healthier future. Our coming budget will be the first and biggest opportunity to reflect these new priorities.

To discuss this topic with others, visit the discussion forum at www.davidsuzuki.org.

The Starving Student

Mother Hubbard
OP Recipe Guru

This week, we're going back to soup because basically, most of us don't know beans about soup. Now there's a treat—bean soup—totally living up to Maxim Litvinov's statement "Food is a weapon." Not only does it fill you up, you're also provided with hours of entertainment, driving away any unwanted guests.

But where did soup come from? The earliest concept

of soup came about when somebody had the brilliant idea of dropping a red-hot stone into a liquid to warm it up.

In 1598, an Englishman named Andrew Boorde had a better grasp on the situation: "Pottage is made of the liquor in which flossche is sodden in, with puttying to chopped herbs and oatmeal and salt." Yum. Thank

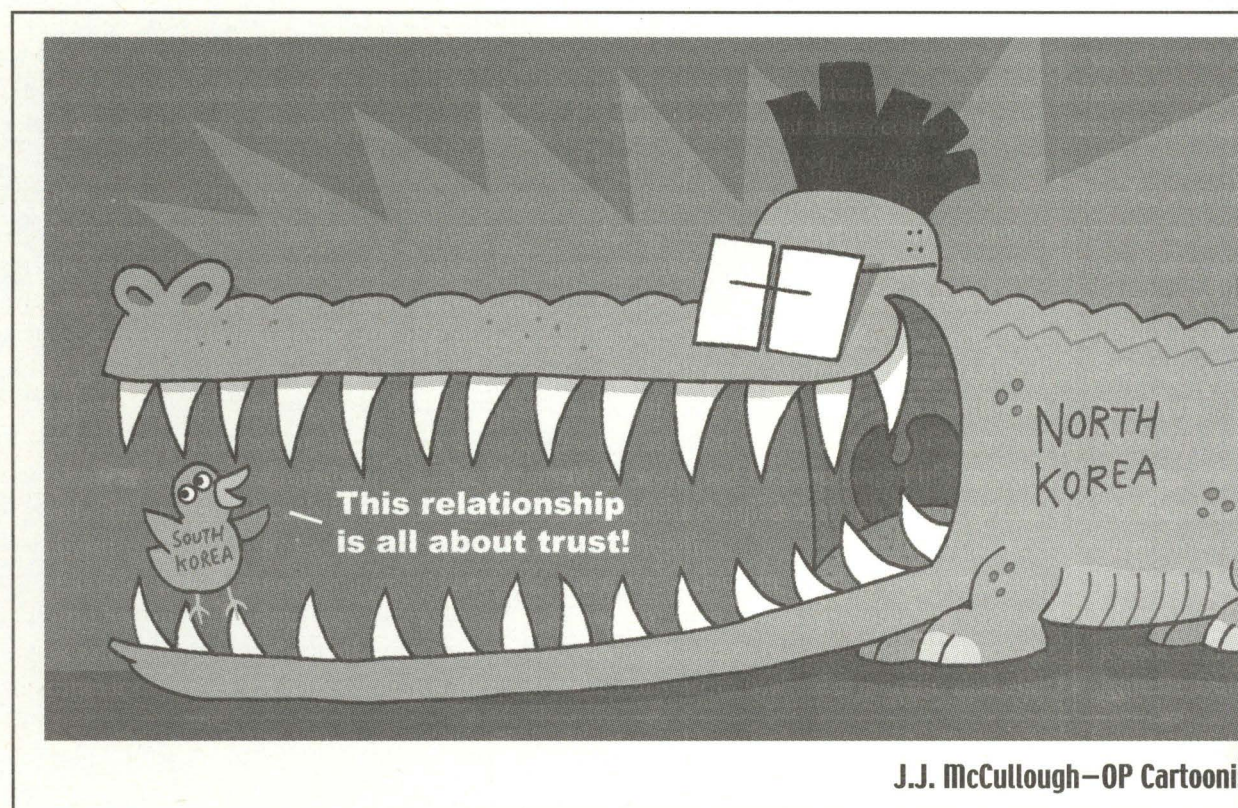


your lucky stars for the French. They thinned this muck out and called it "soupe" because of the practice of placing a "sop" of bread at the bottom of pottage bowls to soak up the juices. While I'm sure you're dying to hear more on this fascinating topic, we'll leave it there as a "soup hanger." For now, let's check out Beef Barley soup.

Olive's Beef Barley Soup

- 1 lb hamburger
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1 Tbsp minced garlic
- 6 cups beef stock (3 beef oxo cubes dissolved in 6 cups boiling water will do it)
- 1/2 cup uncooked barley
- 1/2 cup diced turnip (optional)
- 1/2 cup diced carrot
- 1/2 cup diced potato
- 2 tsp tomato paste (optional)
- 1/2 tsp thyme
- dash pepper
- salt to taste

Sauté meat, onion and garlic in a frying pan. When cooked, drain off the fat. Put the meat mixture into a large saucepan. Add barley and stock. Simmer for 15 minutes. Add the rest of the ingredients and stir to blend. Simmer, covered, for 30 minutes (or until vegetables are soft).



J.J. McCullough—OP Cartoonist

What's on Around Town This Week

Kerry Evans
Culture Editor

Douglas College Events

The Amelia Douglas Gallery presents
In-House Arts and Crafts
Work by College employees
February 12–March 31
For Gallery times, call 604-527-5465

Noon at New West presents
Vancouver Opera Touring Ensemble *La Cenerentola*
Staged adaptation of Rossini's comic opera, Cinderella, sung in English
February 20th, 12:30p.m.
Performing Arts Theatre

A concert with Henry Waack and friends
February 23rd, 2:30p.m.
Call the box office at 604-527-5488 for tickets

Theatre

Charlotte's Web
Adapted by Joseph Robinette from the book by E.B. White
A classic children's tale.
February 13th–March 1st
Wed–Sat, 8:00p.m.
Presentation House Theatre
Call the 24-hour box office line at 604-990-3473

Brilliant Traces

Two people are thrown together in the confines of a snowbound cabin and are left to sort out their painful past.
Until February 22nd
Havana Theatre (1212 Commercial Drive)
Call 604-781-5344 for ticket information

Musical

Ross Taggart/Bob Murphy
February 20th, 8:00p.m.
The Cellar
3611 W. Broadway)

Rising in the West:
JP Carter, Little Stitches, Smoke Rings, and Adios
February 21st, 8:00p.m.
Roundhouse Community Centre

Dave Douglas Septet
February 22nd, 8:00p.m.
Vancouver East Cultural Centre (1895 Venables St.)

Gallery

Digitalis II: The Spiritual in Digital Art
A juried selection of digitally generated prints. Organized in collaboration with the Digitalis Digital Art Society.
February 17th–March 30th
Evergreen Cultural Centre
Call 604-927-6555 for more information

Misc.

Hoja
A Saskatoon-based a cappella group who pride themselves on their amazing harmonies, energetic choreography, and diverse selection of songs.
Appropriate for ages 5 and up.
February 23rd
Evergreen Cultural Centre
Call 604-927-6555 for more information

Arms Wide Open
A Benefit for the Vaccine Evaluation Centre at BC Children's Hospital and the Meningitis Research Foundation of Canada.
Guest speaker: Dr. Jane Finlay
February 22nd
Evergreen Cultural Centre
Call 604-927-6555 for more information

THE OTHER PRESS IS HIRING

We are looking for:

Managing Editor

The Editor will work closely with the section editors and proofreaders, and act as a liaison between the collective. The Editor will chair weekly meetings and oversee all editorial issues.

Opinions Editor

The Opinions Editor is responsible for meeting the editorial demands of their section. Duties include writing copy each week, soliciting copy from Douglas students, and submitting edited copy within deadlines.

Layout

The layout person will have a basic understanding of Quark Express and be expected to layout the copy, ads, and graphics of each issue.

Graphics

The graphics person will have a basic understanding of Quark, Photoshop, and possibly Illustrator, and will be expected to layout ads, import graphics and design the cover of each issue.

Photographer

The photographer will have a basic understanding of photography and be proficient with both SLR and digital formats. Duties include photographing regular OP features, special weekly assignments, and cover photos when applicable.

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The Network Technician will be proficient with both Mac and PC formats and will manage all networked facilities, including software and hardware.

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The Office Manager will be responsible for organizing the office flow, ordering supplies, and keeping the office clean.

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The Distribution person is responsible for the pick-up and distribution of the paper. Must have own car.

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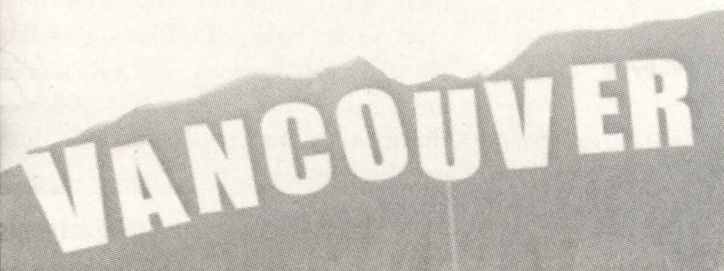
For details:

drop by the office in room 1020

email: submit@op.douglas.bc.ca

phone: 604-525-3542 (leave a message to the Editor)

or fax: 604-525-3505



Oscar Round-Up

Justin Ray
OP Critic

To some people, the word "Oscar" connotes a grouchy green Muppet on the children's program "Sesame Street." Other people first think of a golden statuette coveted by many but attained by few, also known as The King of Hollywood. Some of the latter group, including myself, get rather excited when the Academy Awards lurk around the corner, ready to bestow hopeful newcomers and repeat nominees with The King's grace. The winners can then rake in more dough: everybody gets to add to their names an "Academy Award® nominee So-and-so" or, even better, "Oscar® winner What's-her-face," wooing impressionable crowds to films on which the winners worked. Wow.

So what's with all the excitement? Well, whether it's Whoopi Goldberg's multiple costume changes and racy innuendos or the three-hour build-up to the sometimes obvious Best Picture category, Oscar night is always full of outrageous pomp and fabricated drama. You can count on it. But half the fun, for me anyway, is trying to predict the winners. Saying, "I knew it!" after the fact and recording your predictions before are two completely different things. Get some friends together this year and start an Oscar pool. Or, you can join the Other Press Oscar Pool (OPOP) on Yahoo!, which I'll be setting up later.

Anyway, The Academy made its nominations for the 75th annual event on February 11th. So, to assist you in your selections (or distract you from the winners), I've analyzed the nominees and made my choices, with explanations, below. I'll start with the least essential category and move forward. Kind of like the actual show, but without the bad jokes.

Animated Feature Film

Getting nominated for this new category doesn't seem all that difficult. There are five slots available, but how many major animated movies do you remember coming out in 2002? Aside from *The Land Before Time* or *Rugrats* sequels, there's not much. The Academy mustn't be too picky. The nominees are:

Ice Age
Lilo and Stitch
Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron
Spirited Away
Treasure Planet

Spirited Away may be the best movie in many ways, but the most likely to win is *Lilo and Stitch*, a much more popular movie stateside. To be fair, it's also time for Disney to win.

Actress in a Supporting Role

While director, picture, and actor often go to the same film, the best actress categories regularly buck trends. When

Titanic was nominated for nearly every award, it won just about everything but best actress. Nominees are:

Kathy Bates—*About Schmidt*
Julianne Moore—*The Hours*
Queen Latifah—*Chicago*
Meryl Streep—*Adaptation*
Catherine Zeta-Jones—*Chicago*

Chicago supporters may end up being split between Latifah and Zeta-Jones. They were fine in their roles, but could have been better by a long shot. However, they're in excellent thespian company, providing an interesting race. Thirteen-time nominee Streep has already won twice, and she may well earn a third with *Adaptation*. But I'll pick the uninhibited Kathy Bates to win.

Actor in a Supporting Role

Supporting Role categories can be unpredictable. When it's not clear which actor has the leading role in a large cast, the best actors often end up clinching a supporting role award. For example, in 2001, Benicio Del Toro won for Supporting Role when he may have been considered to have the leading role in *Traffic*. I expected Daniel Day-Lewis, who got second billing for *Gangs of New York*, to end up in the Supporting Actor category. But no, they moved him to Lead. And where's Richard Gere? Anyway, here are the nominees:

Chris Cooper—*Adaptation*
Ed Harris—*The Hours*
Paul Newman—*Road To Perdition*
John C. Reilly—*Chicago*
Christopher Walken—*Catch Me If You Can*

Count out Walken. Winning would make him two for two, and his small role in *Catch Me* was rather sedated. I would love to see the lovable John C. Reilly win for *Chicago*, but he's got stiff competition. Paul Newman, for example. His part of John Rooney in *Perdition* was minor but pivotal. The age factor may also come into play here, for Newman is now 78. But will Ed Harris finally get what he deserves? Harris has never won before, despite several worthy performances. An unlikely surprise here could be the convincing Chris Cooper, who played a

charismatic country bumpkin in *Adaptation*. My pick: Paul Newman.

Actor in a Leading Role

Not a single actor from the Best Picture favourite *Chicago*? That's unusual—the last time this happened was the year of *Titanic*. What's not unusual is that this is a very tough category once again. The nominees are:

Adrien Body—*The Pianist*
Nicolas Cage—*Adaptation*
Michael Cane—*The Quiet American*
Daniel Day-Lewis—*Gangs of New York*
Jack Nicholson—*About Schmidt*

Although Jack Nicholson carried *About Schmidt* squarely on his shoulders, and without the aid of eyebrow crinkles, don't expect him to get Oscar Number Four. Although the others are excellent, Daniel-Day Lewis is probably a safe bet. Those who've seen *Gangs* will not forget what a difference he made in that film. My pick: Daniel Day-Lewis.

Actress in a Leading Role

I just realized how strong last year was for female roles. *The Hours* and *Chicago*, two strong Oscar contenders, both feature multiple significant roles for women—sadly, this is not often the case. This year's heavily youth-biased nominees are:

Salma Hayek—*Frida*
Nicole Kidman—*The Hours*
Diane Lane—*Unfaithful*
Julianne Moore—*The Hours*
Renée Zellweger—*Chicago*

It's too bad there are two fine actresses nominated for *The Hours* that makes it difficult to choose one. Diane Lane is always good too. But Zellweger did such a wonderful job as Roxie Hart in *Chicago*; I'd hate to not pick her. She was perfectly cast, holding the movie together from beginning to end. My pick: Renée Zellweger.

Directing

Three-quarters of Academy Awards for directing have been awarded for the same film as Best Picture. However, recent years have been a little different, so it will be interesting to see who wins.

Chicago—Rob Marshall
Gangs of New York—Martin Scorsese
The Hours—Stephen Daldry
The Pianist—Roman Polanski
Talk to Her—Pedro Almodovar

Polanski may be a worthy contender, but not a likely possibility. *Gangs of New York* was brilliantly directed, but Scorsese should have been more watchful of tech-

nicalities like irregular character accents. There were some other flaws, but they may be proven moot. The race is stacking up to be like that of 1999, when *Saving Private Ryan* battled *Shakespeare in Love* for the top two spots. The gory battle epic won Best Director and the goofy romantic comedy won Best Picture. We'll find out if history repeats itself. My pick, 25 years in the making: *Gangs of New York*.

Best Picture

Does this category really need an introduction? Your nominees are:

Chicago
Gangs of New York
The Hours
The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers
The Pianist

Pick *Chicago*, the favourite, and you'll be okay. While I have no complaints about the other nominees, *Chicago* has the hype and meets the Academy formula: it's an over-the-top crowd pleaser with a stupendous cast and knockout musical numbers. Okay, maybe *Schindler's List* didn't have musical numbers, but that was a different millennium. My pick: *Chicago*.

There are several lesser categories I won't list in full. Here are a couple of highlights:

Best Documentary: *Bowling For Columbine* will win. Easy choice.

Achievement in Sound & Sound Editing

I remember watching *Road to Perdition* and taking a mental note of the fantastic sound editing and that I should mention it when the time came for this feature. I'll be sure to pick *Perdition*.

Visual Effects: *Lord of the Rings* will win. Even *Star Wars* fans should see this coming. *Spider-Man* doesn't even have a chance with its b-grade CGI.

Writing—Adapted and Original: I'll pick *Chicago* and *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, respectively. *Big Fat* had better win something.

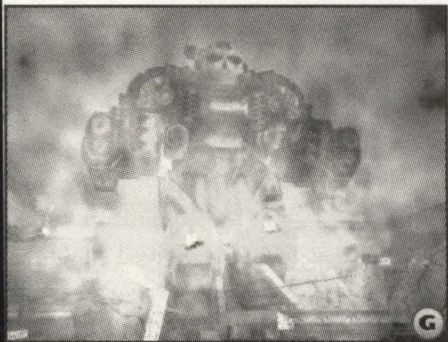
What Now?

Once you've made your choices, you can start planning an Oscar party. Hosting an Oscar party can be an entertaining and economical event. Invite some film-loving friends, get dressed up and serve hors d'oeuvres—or plain old popcorn. Hand out scorecards beforehand, make your predictions, and have booby prizes for the winners. Go ahead; add some contrived pomp to your life!

Finally, remember to watch this space for instructions on how to join The Other Press' Oscar Pool (OPOP), which will be set up in a few weeks—the official ceremony takes place March 23, 2003. You already know my picks. Now start thinking about yours.



Game Review

Hate the Player,
Not the GameCody Sawatsky
The Xboxer

Mechassault—When you blow a Mech up, they blow up real good.



Phantasy Star Online—Looks like it's worth the extra fee

The Xbox has taken a lot of heat since it was first released. Being the newcomer into the console race, and being the offspring of the much-maligned Microsoft, it seems that so-called "hardcore" gamers have had a little trouble giving it a shot. Some people have even gone so far as to take a cheap shot at it by calling it the "Ford Truck of gaming." Well, I am here as a hardcore gamer to tell you, that, yes my friends, Microsoft's heavyweight box is indeed a contender, and the way things are going, the future champ.

Last year started out sluggishly for game selection, but then picked up exponentially, helped by a good kick in the ass from the most perfect gaming tool and service around, Xbox Live. Xbox Live (XBL) allows players to play against other players worldwide, via an ingenious online strategy implemented by Microsoft themselves. They have created a unified service for all games, meaning you pay one fee for everything, and you can play any Xbox live game.

With already around 15 XBL enabled games available, and 80 more XBL titles slated for release in the upcoming year, the future is bright indeed. Even if you are an RPG fan, there is hope. Phantasy Star Online, (A Dreamcast classic) has been

redone for the big black and green box, so you won't have to leave your house merely to play an MMORPG. It may cost you an additional \$10. per month, on top of your XBL fee, but it should be worth it. This is opposed to the sketchy PS2 online strategy, where you have to pay separately for each game, and have no guarantee of online support for the game you just plunked \$70 down on. With the PS2, you also have to buy two more peripheral units, a network adapter and a hard drive. Each priced at around the price of a game, and both of which are included inside an Xbox. This is also opposed to the complete lack of online support with the GameCube.

Another great feature of XBL is that every single game that uses it has Voice support. This means you can always talk to and hear the people you are playing with. While it is true that *SOCOM: U.S. Navy Seals* for PS2 uses this, it is not supported by other games, and adds to already terrible lag, as PS2 also has phone line users on its online arenas. Lag on XBL is a thing of the past. Well, because XBL is broadband only, and run off of dedicated servers, lag is about as common as Celine Dion being played on the Fox. For more info on Xbox live, check <www.xbox.com/live>.

The built in Network card also allows for

some another seriously wicked option, LAN parties. This function is called "System Link" in the game. If you want to play eight-player *Halo* or *Unreal Championship* (or any other game that supports it) merely get two TVs, your buddy's Xbox, and an Ethernet cable, and you're good to go! System link currently supports up to four Xboxes at a time, allowing you to play up to 16 players, in one house, in a lag-free environment. (four consoles, four-players per console) eight vs. eight player *Capture The Flag* in *Halo* is intense.

Not only this, but there are some amazing single player experiences. The Shenmue series is now exclusively Xbox. Another awesome feature of XBL is downloadable content. *Splinter Cell*, an amazing stealth action game uses this feature, which is made possible only by the Xbox's built-in hard drive, has downloadable missions. Mechassault will soon be releasing new maps and Mechs. Updated rosters and stadiums in sports games are all now possibilities.

Well, I could extol the virtues of the box all day, but I will leave you up to see for yourself. Besides, what's wrong with being the Ford Truck of gaming? It's better than being the Honda family sedan. Cody_Sawatsky@hotmail.com

George Carlin, Shocking and
Mocking in VancouverBrandon Yip
OP Contributor

George Carlin, the 65-year-old king of cynicism and methodical dissector of the English language, played to a crowd of approximately 2,200 at the Orpheum Theatre January 21. When he came onstage, he was casually dressed in a faded black T-shirt and matching jeans. He then saluted the crowd and opened with "Here's something you never hear people talk about anymore, pussy-farts!" Yes, it was his time to shock and mock and be rude and crude. There was no scent of Mr. Clean coming from Carlin's breath, nor any behaviour resembling his Mr. Conductor character on the TV series *Shining Time Station*. Instead Carlin held nothing back, eviscerating the crowd with his condescending razor-sharp wit and one of voice that could be both conniving and enlightening.

And old Georgey doesn't play any favourites—he attacked everyone and everything from answering machines, bumper stickers, Christians, Techno-geeks, Charlton Heston and "gun enthusiasts," people who buy advisors, parents who brag about their children, singers with one name (Bono, Prince, Sting, Jewel,) and guys named "Todd" and "Kyle."

Carlin brought out his comedic gun and fired numerous shots from his comedy holster, including a rant about

hit-and-run accidents, which would have made Halle Berry blush.

Carlin brought out some of the old material and some new. One segment had him making cracks about suicide. He delved into the various methods of suicide and said younger people would be more attracted to suicide if they made it into a sport—and called it "Extreme Living!" He also went on a tirade about there being too many songs. He bitched about love songs making him sick, "Everyone sings about a broken heart. What about a punctured lung? Nobody sings about that!"

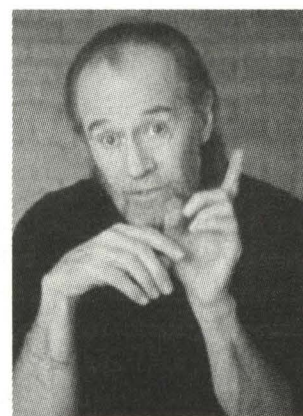
He suggested that there should be a song made about tuberculosis—having a guy just "cough" throughout for three minutes. Throughout the show Carlin made many crude sexual remarks. One of those included, "Here's something you never hear a man say, 'Stop sucking my dick or I'll call the police!'" He also incorporated bathroom humour, making several unmitigated fart jokes that had the audience smelling one bad pun after another.

But the crowd was taken aback further when Carlin treaded (once again) over the boundary of good taste—making several jokes about cancer, telling the audience, "I know it's touchy, but fuck you!" He later discussed in graphic detail—his enema experiment with his buddy

Leon, which made some in the audience laugh, cringe or be silent.

However sick and twisted some of Carlin's shtick was, he is a polished veteran comedian with 12 HBO specials under his belt, along with two best-selling books (*Braindroppings* and *Napalm & Silly Putty*). On the acting front, he will be playing Ben Affleck's father in Kevin Smith's *Jersey Girl*—to be released later this year. What more does Carlin have to do?

George Carlin has been a pioneer for breaking down the barriers that often hinder comedians—topics that are controversial to poke fun at: abortion, cancer, anorexia, rape, suicide, religion. Carlin, along with Lenny Bruce, Richard Pryor, and later Bill Hicks, challenged the uptight establishment. Carlin's firing from the Frontier Hotel in Las Vegas in the early 1970s for using profanity seems laughable today—the Osbournes ought to be "fuckin'" thanking Carlin! His brilliant "Seven Words You Can Never Say on Television" routine in the 1970s brought him notoriety and, ironically, some of those seven words have made their way onto mainstream television today. George Carlin used the adage of "saying what you truly mean" and he was truly MEAN in what he was saying at the Orpheum last Tuesday night.



Top Ten Albums of 2002

David Nichols
OP Contributor

To all who feel the need to complain about the lack of good music coming out these days, look a little beyond the slop that's shoveled out on television and radio stations and you'll see that there's so much amazing music coming out, it's a little hard to keep up with. Here's a list of the ten CDs that kept me coming back the most.

10. Gogogo Airheart: *Exitheuxa*, Gold Standard Laboratories

While the photos on San Diego-based Gogogo Airheart's latest album really say nothing about the music contained within, they make perfect sense once you listen to it. They're hazy, timeless, vaguely disturbing and apocalyptic. The photo of sunny suburbia on the back has an especially "just before the bomb hit" feel to it. As they veer recklessly from genre to genre with the only consistent element being Michael Vermillion's thoroughly inconsistent voice, the band's mature songwriting talent and the aforementioned sinister mood somehow hold everything together. When the Sonic Youth death-rattle of "Good Things" leads into the twisted dub-reggae of "Witch Hunt," nothing seems out of place. Art punk for kids who were diagnosed with ADD but were really just bored with humanity.

9. Black Dice: *Beaches and Canyons*, DFA

If the term "psychedelia" makes you think of hippies picking flowers and hour-long guitar jams, you need to hear "Beaches and Canyons." Black Dice have been building notoriety in the New York hardcore scene through shows characterized by extreme volume and the possibility of physical violence toward one another and the audience. The most shocking thing they could've done is release this relatively tranquil album of epic psychedelic jams and samples of water lapping at the seashore. Not to say that much of the bombast and insanity isn't still intact, just that it's being delivered in a much more expansive and emotionally resonant form. Now all the punks can enjoy this musical rule-breaker, and sleep easy with the knowledge that if Black Dice ever jammed with Phish, somebody would probably end up dead.

8. Iron and Wine: *The Creek Drank the Cradle*, Sub Pop

Calling Iron and Wine country is a little misleading. I'd much sooner recommend Same Beam's rootsy songs to Elliott Smith and Nick Drake fans than anyone who owns a cowboy hat or belt-buckle for non-ironic reasons, but they really do sound like they were written on a back porch amidst muggy evening air. This relaxed pace gives ample space for Beam's lush vocal harmonies and intricate guitar work to unfold, while his lyrics utilize rustic Americana to deal with lost, lost faith, and personal failures, and yet never resorts to finger-pointing or self pity. When Beam steps out of the faded photographs to deal with modern issues, he drops gems like "we gladly run in circles/but the shape we

meant to make/is gone."

7. Akufen: *My Way*, Force Inc.

With its vibrant club scene and the internationally respected Mutek festival, Montreal has become the North American hub for experimental electronic music. While much of it is austere and academic, there's a move towards accessibility, danceability, and just plain fun, headed by Marc Leclair, aka Akufen. As he lays out in his musical manifesto, all of the music he samples is from the radio, tiny pieces of jingles and announcers, the sonic detritus of the airwaves. It's a testament to his skill that he fits them all together in cohesive songs that groove like a motherfucker. While the first three songs mislead a bit with their sleepy, tasteful ambience, the party really gets started with the song of the year (with close competition from the Rapture's "House of the Jealous Lover" and Missy Elliott's "Work It"), "Deck the House," which weaves vocal bits and guitar samples into and infinitely catchy and danceable masterpiece. The bottom of my jaw's still a little sore from hitting the floor the first time I heard it.

6. Sonic Youth: *Murray Street*, Geffen

New York's Murray Street is notable both as where Sonic Youth's recording studio resides and where an airplane engine landed on September 11th, 2001. New member, producer, and all around musical Renaissance man Jim O'Rourke was in the studio at the time and had to flee to escape the massive dust cloud when the buildings collapsed. What affect this all had when they went back, cleared out the dust, and recorded this album would only be speculation, but the fact is that, for a band many had written off, this album surpasses most of their 90s output, hinting at the glory days of "Sister" and "Daydream Nation." My guess is O'Rourke's influence had a lot to do with it. He's also released an album of 70s rock-tinged chamber pop called "Insignificance," a collection of live laptop improvisations called "I'm Happy and I'm Singing and a 1,2,3,4," and collaborated with Christian Fennesz and Peter Rehberg on the massive "Return of FennO'Berg." Oh yeah, and it's all brilliant.

5. Spoon: *Kill the Moonlight*, Merge

As good as "Girls Can Tell" and the preceding "A Series of Sneaks" were, they were both inconsistent albums that never quite rose above their influences, the Pixies and Elvis Costello being the most cited. With "Kill the Moonlight," Britt Daniels and crew have filled the album with single-worthy, idiosyncratic songs.

Sparse opener "Small Stakes" sets the minimalist tone for the rest of the album while lyrics like "small stakes ensure you the minimum blues / but you don't feel taken and you don't feel abused" hint both at Spoon's major label past and indie future. Britt's songwriting prowess has progressed light years, penning melodies that are both wholly original and instantly catchy, while his lyrics perform the feat of saying a lot more than they initially seem to. And, like all good rock and roll, you can shake your ass to it. Essential.

4. Liars: *They Threw Us All In A Trench And Stuck A Monument On Top*, Mute

"We've got our finger on the pulse of America." If they're referring to their pervasive paranoia and confrontational stance, I'd have to say Liars are bang on with that statement. While there are currently many New York bands doing the "Gang of Four, Public Image Limited disco-punk" thing, none have as much disdain and disrespect for everything that's come before as Liars. They seem to hate tired, old sounds as much as they hate musical proficiency. They've learned their instruments, drum machines, samplers and effects pedal just well enough to raise a seething mass of negativity that destroys conventional ideas about song structure and ends with 25 minutes of looped dissonance. Being told "fuck you" never sounded so good.

3. Out Hud: *S.T.R.E.E.T. D.A.D.*, Kranky

As someone who listens to a lot of music, it gets way too easy to write off new music by saying what it sounds like. If you've ever heard anyone call a band "the reincarnation of Joy Division" or say "the Velvet Underground did this a lot better," you have to realize it's partially their opinion and partially their sad little way of showing off. With Out Hud, the best I can come up with is "the guitars are kind of like U2." This is music without precedent. Featuring members of funk-punk giants, Out Hud combines tribal drum machine beats, delayed guitars, emotive basslines, fractures electronics, soothing washes of white noise, cooing strings, ringing synths, and any number of other sounds into massive dance compositions that constantly shift and morph, often with beautiful results. "Dad There's A Little Phrase Called Too Much Information" is a brooding epic cut through with shards of noise and acid house melodies, while "The L Train Is A Swell Train And I Don't Want To Hear Any Of You Indies Complain" somehow sustains 12 minutes of supremely funky instrumental bliss that not only doesn't get

boring but actually makes you wish it could go on forever, if, of course, it weren't for its gorgeous ending. And this is a debut, they're probably developing better material as I write. If there's any justice in the world, these guys and gals will be huge.

2. El-P: *Fantastic Damage*, Def Jux

As legendary as El-P's work with abstract hip-hop pioneers Company Flow is, it's everything he's done since splitting with Rawkus that he'll truly be remembered for. The label he's built, renamed Definitive Jux after a lawsuit from De La Soul (for shame Russell Simmins, have you ever heard of homage?) is who's who of innovative hip-hop, with a stable of Jukies including Cannibal Ox, Aesop Rock, RJD2, and Mr. Lif, and a track record for release that's flawless thus far. Still, it's Papa Jux who stands at the forefront. He's taken the "damaged yet epic" aesthetic of his production to an even higher level starting the album with bangers like "Deep Space 9mm" and "Truancy" before taking a harrowing journey through Vietnam and an Orwellian vision of the future. He proves he's a bigger man than most MCs by opening up emotionally on "Stepfather Factory," which manages to revisit his problematic childhood while brilliantly satirizing corporate irresponsibility and modern fatherhood, and the Shakespeare-referencing "TOJ," a meditation on lost love that still sends shivers up my spine. Of course, he follows the latter with the alternately hilarious and disgusting sex rap "Dr. Hell No and the Praying Mantis." This is an album that's been criticized for being "relentlessly masculine," which is probably valid, but some messages are wasted preaching to the converted. As El rhymes on "Constellation Funk," "This is for the single maternal figures beaten to the floor/who crawled back to their children and stood up for more/and watched those same kids as adults/with bullshit vinyl cuts, calling women whores."

1. Wilco: *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot*, Nonesuch

"Band records most experimental album which ends with departure of key member Jay Bennett and addition of genius mixer Jim O'Rourke. Band's label refuses to release 'commercially unviable' album. Band buys album from label and streams it for free on the Internet. Different subsidiary of same label buys albums from band and releases it. In testament to efficiency of free market economies and corporate concentration, culture-sucking monolith AOL-Time-Warner pays twice for same album." That's the condensed

version of a story that's become folklore to many music fans, and it's a story made all the more important by the fact that Wilco's "Yankee Hotel Foxtrot" is an absolute masterpiece. This is experimental music where all the experiments actually work. When a faint organ hum emerges out of the static on "Radio Cure," it's all the more stunning. Listen to how effortlessly Wilco shifts between REM styled jangle pop and synthy Krautrock on "War on War," with lyrics that shift from sentiments like "you have to lose/you have to learn how to die/if you wanna wanna be alive" from fragile frontman Jeff Tweedy to the poetic "you are not my typewriter/but you could be my demon/moving forwards through flaming doors." The atmos-

pheric, effects-laden "Ashes of American Flags" is finally consumed by chaos, which leads into "Heavy Metal Drummer," bouncy radio-pop better than anything on the radio. With every song being tied so tightly to the songs that precede and follow it, it's hard to pick a highlight, but "Poor Places," which features fantastic piano and Tweedy singing "It's hot in the poor places tonight/I'm not going outside," climaxes in wailing feedback with a female voice from a numbers broadcast repeating "Yankee...Hotel...Foxtrot..." Taking avant-garde experimentalism and making it irresistibly catchy, this album proves that musical decisions should be kept as far away from visionless, tasteless, number-crunching suits as possible.

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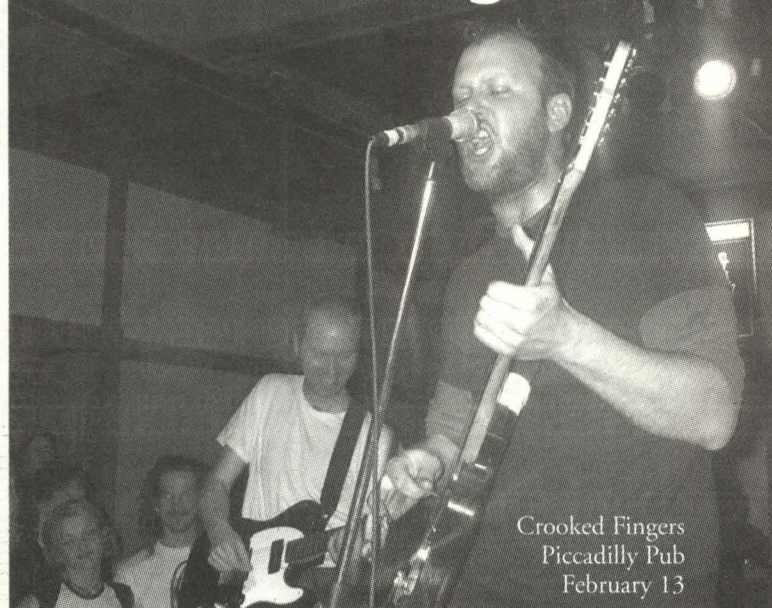
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Crooked Fingers



Crooked Fingers
Piccadilly Pub
February 13

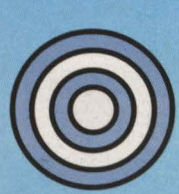
Amanda Aikman
Assistant Culture Editor

Eric Bachmann may not look the part of the quintessential rock star, but when he takes the stage he brings the goods. Along with the latest incarnation of his band, Crooked Fingers, Bachmann wooed a capacity crowd at the Piccadilly Pub in Vancouver on February 13. The tall, unshaven, bespectacled North Carolinian (and now Seattle resident) had the women swooning and the men busting out in spontaneous spasms of air-guitaring. Bachmann's commanding stage presence should come as no surprise; after all he spent the better part of the '90s on the road with the Archers of Loaf. But a Crooked Fingers' show is not an Archers of Loaf show and their days of jangly, vocal chord shredding, indie-rock anthems are firmly behind them. Despite the inevitable drunken pleas of hopeful fans (or "thugs" as they are affectionately referred to in Archers' circles), Bachmann and company would not be swayed into playing the old material. As it turned out, they didn't need to. When the band launched into a stellar rendition of "Crowned in Chrome" from their 2000 self-titled debut, the audience forgot all about the old days and the mood in the Pic was elevated to something resembling a hootenanny/religious revival. The lively "New Drink for the Old Drunk," also from their first album, was another crowd pleaser but it was the material from their latest release, *Red Devil Dawn* that filled out most of the set list. From the quietly beautiful "Angelina" to the rousing "You Threw a Spark," the fevered crowd gratefully lapped up these latest additions to the Crooked Fingers family.

After an extremely well-received set and very brief departure from the stage, the Fingers returned to play one of their trademark cover-song-laden encores. A favourite element of Crooked Fingers' live shows, these encores led to the band's release of the *Reservoir Songs* EP in 2002. Among the five great tracks on that all-covers EP were versions of Kris Kristofferson's "Sunday Morning Coming Down," and Prince's "When U Were Mine." This time around the crowd was treated to such delights as Echo & the Bunnymen's "Bring on the Dancing Horses" and Springsteen's "The Promised Land," and if the reception at the Pic was any indication, a second volume of *Reservoir Songs* won't be far behind.

At the beginning of the evening Bachmann had announced that the band "might need a place to stay tonight," adding after considerable laughter from the crowd, "I'm not kidding." Whether he was kidding or not, Bachmann certainly deserves credit for slugging it out in the trenches as long as he has. While bands like Pavement, with whom the Archers were often associated in the '90s, went on to enjoy a higher degree of commercial success, Bachmann continued experimenting with his craft, out of the limelight's glare. This may have done wonders for his so-called "indie cred" but it has also meant fighting to fill venues and having to personally hawk T-shirts after exhausting evenings on stage. Combined with his talent for creating truly innovative music, it is this tenacity that inspires such loyalty and admiration in his fans. Looking at the transfixed faces of audience members boisterously singing along to the evening's final song "A Little Bleeding," it was obvious that kidding or not, in this crowd Bachmann and the boys would have little difficulty securing friendly couches to crash on.





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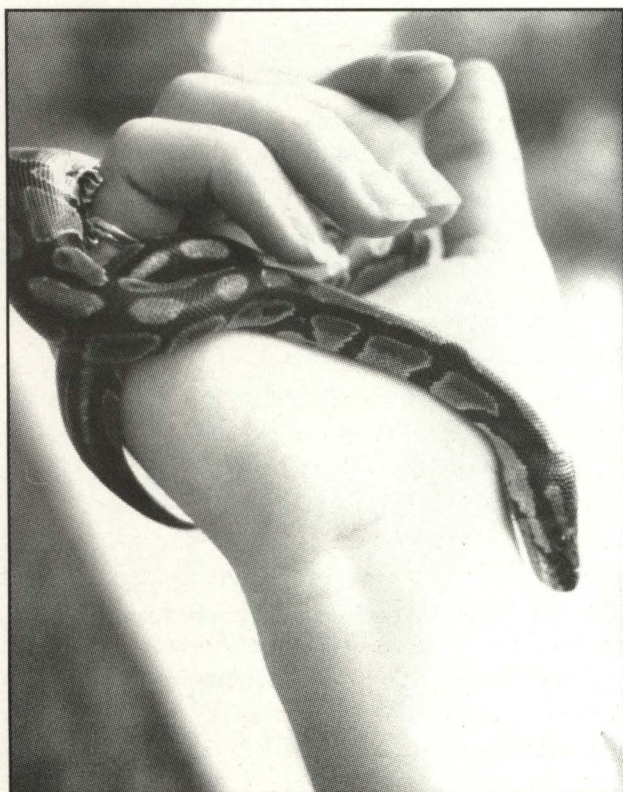
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Photo(graphic)



by Devon Lewis

Poetry/Fiction/Essays/etc.

Enemy

Outside, peering in
Straddling a cloud, tears falling
In a bunker selling online
Beneath the sands choking babies
Within unconsciously, without unceasingly
Staying in town for one night only
Bleeding me, extracting wine
Feeding the traveler with a bad heart
Easing consciences with a black monolith
Collecting knives found in back
Infidels nesting, often polyplex
Riding one-humped camel into sunset
Setting sun

By Justin Ray

So, Let's Talk About War

Sven Bellamy
Features Editor



Years ago during a conversation about war, a friend of mine said, "war is one of life's great necessary evils." Let's think about this statement.

War is defined in the Oxford dictionary as armed conflict between nations. Armed conflict implies death, but living things generally work to maintain life. War can be argued to be evil—an evil that has some positive effect, once the conflict is resolved.

Even if you agree that war has positive effects, does that make it necessary?

Could the same effects be achieved through entirely peaceful means? If the positive effects of war can be achieved peacefully, then war is not necessary.

What seems paramount to agree to, is that war is conflict taken to an extreme. Conflict, in and of itself, is good, and is part of life. In an interpersonal context, conflict offers opportunity for people to learn about themselves and others; it can enhance relationships; it can reduce tension; create change; enhance self-esteem; a chance to identify and meet one's needs; and it can teach humility. Running from a conflict is to deny the chance to embrace change and growth, both on an intrapersonal, and interpersonal levels. So, coming from the perspective that war is a conflict, albeit on the extreme side of the conflict scale, it must have some benefits.

A professor once said to a class of students that he disagreed with war, but when asked about the war in Afghanistan to remove the Taliban from power, he admitted that improved conditions for women might be a positive spin-off from such a war.

More recently, during an interview with a Canadian journalist who was in Afghanistan during the initial battles of the Afghanistan conflict, he said that he was surprised to see such a large number of unveiled women in the province of Kandahar, an area that is historically strict with Islamic law. He also said that homosexual relationships between kids was accepted socially and openly, that heroin culture is very pervasive, although there is a blanket prohibition on any harmful intoxicant (that is taken that recreational use is okay, so long

as responsibilities to family and community are not neglected).

Now, I am not saying that there are not miserable conditions for women in other countries, but it seems to be easier to look at what is going on in those other countries, rather than stopping to look at what's going on in our own neighbourhoods. For example, just look at how many years it took police to discover who was behind the killing of female sex workers on Vancouver's East side, and how many people did not respond to the screams of a young girl for help in a middle-class Coquitlam neighbourhood.

As far as our self-proclaimed liberal mindset, people in Canada who are sexually orientated in any way other than heterosexually are still discriminated against, and ignored by important social institutions. Use the United Church of Canada as an example. Years ago, when it was first declared that this church was going to ordain ministers who were known to be homosexually orientated, congregations were suddenly torn to pieces, and the United Church was only the first in a line of Christian denominations to start this process.

Drug use is another topic that is revealing. Canada's reluctance to embrace cultures that exists too pervasively in this society is nothing short of ludicrous. How many people are recreational tokers? How many people take the occasional hoot, but only if they can keep it a secret from family, colleagues, and co-workers? (And if they are found out say, "but I didn't inhale!")

Now, what has happened before this point in the story is mention of a series of conflicts that are present within Canadian society, conflicts that need to be dealt with—some resolution found.

The next question to address is why are we involved in some other country's conflicts, when we have our own important conflicts to work through?

It might be something else in the human psyche, a condition known as fight-or-flight.

Fight-or-flight is a term that is used to describe human approach to conflict. Basically, when

humans (or any other animal, for that matter) come under stress, and adrenalin begins to flow, an inner conflict occurs, and several decisions have to be made very quickly: Do I stand my ground, or run like hell? Do I face this problem head-on, looking for personal growth and community awareness, or do I run and hide until the crisis is past? Or because I am stronger than the opponent I am facing, do I try to squash them like the bug they are? Fight-or-flight is a conflict that everyone I know has to deal with everyday, on different levels. Sometimes it is much easier to look outside, and find some problem elsewhere to deal with. It's much easier to place judgment on others, rather than stop and take that proverbial long, hard look at ourselves.

If we elevate this analogy to a global scale, then that is exactly what I think is going on in North America. Allow me to make this judgment, as a Canadian, as a North American, as someone who has travelled to Eastern countries, and lived in other cultural contexts: We are collectively too busy, stuck with our heads up our asses, to stop and take that long-hard look at ourselves. Instead we lay blame on other people and other countries, who we conveniently label

terrorists (those people by the way, call themselves freedom fighters), and are then, quite falsely, absolved of all responsibility to deal with the issues that really need to be dealt with—the issues close to home.

Some people may tell you, "Pah-shaw, this guy is talking gibberish," but there is one more side to this story that needs to be presented, and that is the argument that war is the greatest act of terrorism available to mankind.

People from one country, two cities in particular, know this to be true more than anyone else: Hiroshima and Nagasaki. How many lives were snuffed out in minutes—no—seconds? How many lives, innocent lives, have been lost in civilian casualties, in countless wars, especially in the last hundred years? Some figures: 1.5 million civilians in Iraq have died over the past ten years because of UN sanctions. That's more people than live in British Columbia, and by civilians, it goes without saying that men, women, and children are all tallied in that number. And yet, there is talk of attacking Iraq, to remove Saddam, because he is harbouring terrorists, and weapons of mass destruction.

Here's some more news. The United States has employed ter-

rorists, including Osama Bin-Laden, Manuel Noriega, Saddam Hussein, Klaus Barbie, and a whole host of others, as deemed fit. This is mind boggling. Canada is not absolved of guilt because we so closely support what the United States does.

We in North America are just propagating the message put forth in Rudyard Kipling's poem, *The White Man's Burden*. North Americans don't seem to think that people in these other countries can take care of themselves, so we step in.

If the people in Iraq want to get rid of Saddam, then they will, on their own terms. If they want help doing it, then they will ask. But, the way things are going right now with the invasions of Islamic countries by the infidel nations of the West, instead of stopping and dealing with our own social ills, we are creating more problems for ourselves than we are going to be able to deal with. The direction North America is moving in now is one of impending conflict, on our own soil, from many different fronts, toward a social war that is going to dramatically change our society whether we like it, or not. War is a great evil, but it isn't necessary.

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The Conquering Starts in Iraq, but They are Not the Target

Macdonald Stainsby
DSU External Relations



Germany, France and Belgium. Now Russia and China. The bulk of the Third World, even normally useful American puppet states, are starting to look at the war that is being offered to the global population and say that it is mere snake oil. Not even a placebo to the pain of the threat of terrorism, so go the arguments of many these days; it will bring about more terror. Why, after supporting American policy against the Iraqi government for over ten years, and backing the American-led NATO assault on Yugoslavia and the UN-approved bombing of Afghanistan, would these European countries start to oppose this chapter of the "War on Terrorism"?

Perhaps because even America's best friends can no longer convince their populations that the proposed war is one on Terror. Perhaps because it is such a glaring propaganda job being offered. Perhaps it is because these countries can tell that this isn't about Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD). It's about oil. But don't take my word for it, rather listen to the former head of the French army: "The French can, for example, secure the oil fields," stated Admiral Jacques Lanxade. This, apparently, is Plan B being proposed. The French should know. Their government, along with that of the Russian and Germans, has trade agreements with the current government in Iraq for when the sanctions are lifted (further evidence that the Iraqi regime has reason to want to cooperate with the UN, who imposed the crippling sanctions in the first place.) Those treaties are with the Ba'ath government of Saddam Hussein, and would not be recognized by any force that occupies the Iraqi people after an American aerial slaughter and invasion. The oil fields of the second largest reserves in the world—as well as the cheapest to extract and refine—would come under the direct control of the US, and the American oil interests (who utterly infest this current un-elected junta) would gain a pre-eminence in global economic relations unparalleled in human recorded history.

The target is not Iraq per se, but rather it is a combination of Europe and the People's Republic of China. The battlefield is Iraq, and will be Saudi Arabia, Syria, Libya, and Iran. These countries are not to be the targets, they are to be the spoils. Viewed this way, the Continental European response begins to become clear. While Europe continues to consolidate their new economic bloc, the competition to American capitalism—most specifically the US dollar as the global exchange—has come under threat. The Chinese "Socialist Market Economy" has created a massive human cost to their population, but it has also achieved stunning economic growth in global market share. In the world today, 1.3 billion people cannot double their energy needs (as China is predicted to do in the next decade) without becoming totally dependant on petroleum. The EU is already an imperialist consumer of cheap oil from the Middle East. If it grows and the Chinese energy needs continue to escalate, we have the makings of a classic imperialist fight over global resources. But this time the caveat is something far more sinister, more critical. This conflict, to occur over the next 10 to 20 years, will decimate the world and decapitate any hope for humanity, the planet, and all of the inhabitants. The consequences of total global war for resources should be clear to all by

now.

"No blood for oil" is what the anti-war movement says, but it isn't quite said with the right understanding. Oil is the very fabric of all consumer and imperialist driven markets. It is woven through the computer screens, plastic potato chip bags and military hardware. It is the McDonald's, not merely the fuel that gets you through their "drive-thru" window at 2 a.m. When the oil equation is put with that understanding, then calculate what it means that we are in permanent decline for oil stocks and recovery rates. We have gone far past the peak of oil production. This has become the common understanding of resource-based research in all of the major states, regardless of ideology. This is not only no longer denied by current oil magnates, it is also clearly the unifying theme of all the American Junta's threats to attack some Third World states and "democratize" them with the carpet bombings of B-52's. Such is why the "North Korean crisis" is being touted as solvable through diplomatic channels. That this reduction in what is recoverable for oil is taking place during this global surge of energy demands and re-divide along state lines means that the American talk about "re-shaping" the entire Middle East is not mere bluster. It is policy. Every state that contains any of the global oil reserves of consequence must be eliminated. Iraq is round two of an endless war. A war against the people of the world as spoils, and those in Europe and anywhere else that would dare challenge American hegemony.

Seen through this prism, the increasing American role in non-front page conflicts such as Colombia and the Philippines has its heart in this global American initiated war. More so does the struggle in Venezuela reflect this. The lockout that was recently abandoned by the property owning classes in Caracas and across the country sought to destroy the Bolivarian revolution, a government that has held multiple referenda and two governmental elections since the beginning of 1997. The target industry to disrupt has been oil, to bring down this popular government. The move has failed, though it was clearly instigated to help get the American's number one oil supplying country in the world as a "backup" source in the event of war. You won't find two governments more different than that of Hugo Chávez Frias, a left wing former paratrooper who runs one of the most democratic states in the world, and of Saddam Hussein—who is known to have murdered every opponent that posed even a slight threat to his rule in Iraq. Oil unifies and makes the seeming inconsistencies make sense. That Chávez has survived thus far is a victory for the forces of peace in Iraq and indeed, the entire Middle East, including the long suffering Palestinian people.

The war isn't Bush's policy. It is definitely not the fancy prose of the war-spin machine to garner a way to feel "proud to be American after 9/11," nor is it about eliminating terrorists, terrorism and WMD. It is obvious to all but the most flag-waving analysis that the Bush policies will turn the entire world into a seething cauldron of hatred and venal cunning out to destroy everything American, even baseball and jazz music. The truly terrifying part is that the American ruling class has signed on for this conflict, and they have little choice but to do so.

Imperialism is about control and growth just as capitalism is, indeed imperialism is only the most grotesque form of capitalism. Inherent to this system is the need for this global race-war we are being led into. But we do not need to tell one another to despair. To quote Mumia Abu-Jamal, political prisoner in the United States:

"Contrary to popular belief, conventional wisdom would have one believe that it is insane to resist this, the mightiest of empires... But what history really shows is that today's empire is tomorrow's ashes, that nothing lasts forever and that to not resist is to acquiesce in your own oppression. The greatest form of sanity that anyone can exercise is to resist that force that is trying to repress, oppress, and fight down the human spirit."

People have often said that knowledge is power, but that is only true if it is also a guide to action. We have a chance to start to climb out of the darkness, the fear, the artificial and nurtured-from-above racism, the laws of the jungle. Once we start to speak with one another not in the language of the threatening forces, we can start to see our way out. WE need, at all costs, to move into taking the same proactivity of the "anti-globalization" movement and meld it with the stark facts of the ultra-heavy-state long-term war being plotted. States are not withering away, they are back with the greatest imperial force behind them in history. We must start to think anew. Let me recount two examples. In the Vietnam War era, the United States invaded Cambodia—they went in 15 miles. The anti-war movement in Vancouver responded by invading Washington State, 15 miles. And right now, there are people trying to put together a "rooting out evil" coalition to conduct an inspection of Washington DC for WMD (of which they have more than the rest of the world). Finally, there was a recruitment centre in San José, California a few months back that got burned to the ground by mysterious arsonists. It wasn't reported widely at all, but the perpetrators tried to get the message out. They had spray-painted the side of the building with the slogan "Pre-emptive strike." Of course, the media didn't give more than page C32 a small paragraph on this. They didn't want to give you ideas. I, on the other hand, wouldn't want to call for a felony. Such actions usually happen when a movement is stagnant or in decline, and not while the anti-war movement is massively and rapidly growing. Yet, the current size of the antiwar movement is almost as unprecedented as the Bush vision of permanent war. The war hawks are making global plans for decades into the future. So must we, and be as free thinking and free of their tunnel vision as possible. Humanity itself is at stake.

The saying goes: "When in Rome, do as the Romans do." The American Empire is as strong as the Roman one once was. But in keeping with the cliché the Roman Empire was ultimately brought down by its own population, and the empire was reduced to ashes by the hands of the internal slaves. We can only demand the same from North America. Now that is "Reality Television," but the networks will all be out of commission that fine day. Come to an all-day, anti-war conference instead, on Saturday, Mar 1, 2003. It will be in room 2201, and Douglas students pay nothing.

Contact: <mstainsby@tao.ca>



Taking on the Anti-War Movement

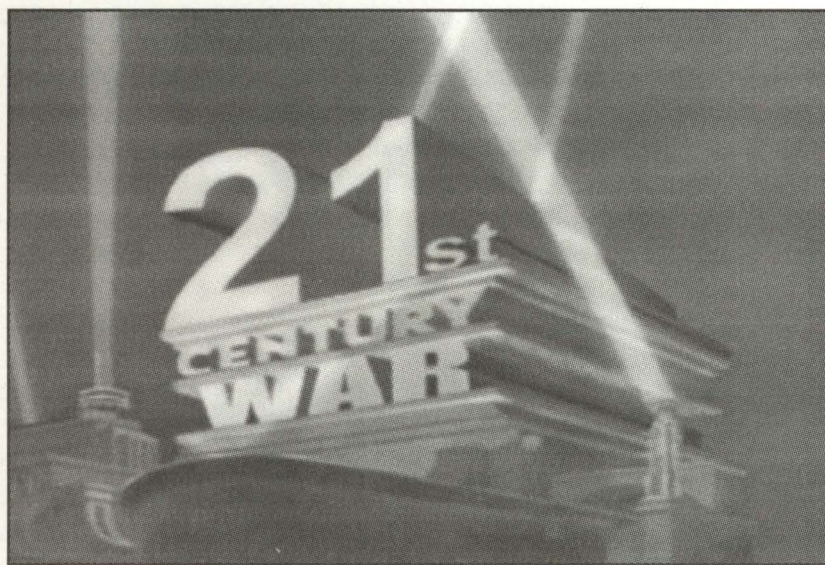
J.J. McCullough
OP Contributor

These days it seems like it's getting increasingly hard to ignore them. Their posters are plastered on the walls, their rallies fill the streets, and their articles dominate our newspapers. I speak, of course, of the so-called "anti-war" movement. With all the talk of Iraq in the news lately, these folks have been even more public than usual. "We want peace!" "No blood for oil!" they chant, as they wring their hands over the plight of the poor Iraqi people. Anti-war protestors are always annoying, but this new breed is more dangerous than ever. Though on the surface they may seem to be motivated by genuine goodwill and a desire for peace, once we investigate their actions a bit closer, a series of disturbing hidden agendas quickly becomes apparent.

The first hidden agenda of the so-called "anti-war" movement is their fanatical opposition to the United States of America. They seriously believe that all the world's problems are caused by the United States, and that the American government is a vicious, bloodthirsty regime bent on war, imperialism, and genocide. This argument is so blatantly false it is barely worth discussing further. Everyone already knows that the United States is one of the world's most stable democracies. The US donates billions of dollars a year to eradicating disease, hunger, and war, and has a long history of fighting to preserve the freedom of people all over the world. On a planet plagued by madmen like Anwar Quaddafi, Saddam Hussein, and Kim Jong Il, the "anti-war" left still prefers to focus on the non-existent evils of the United States, rather than discuss the very real evils of the world's most vicious dictators. Marxist dictatorships continue to starve and slaughter their people on a daily basis, while the corrupt Islamic regimes of the Middle East torture and oppress women and children without batting an eye. These facts mean little to the "anti-war" leftists, because to them, America represents something more sinister than all the dictatorships of the world combined: Capitalism. In the last 20 years we have seen the idiotic lies and false solutions of communism and socialism collapse under the universal truths of capitalism and democracy, led by the strong efforts of NATO and the United States. Socialist dictators like the ones in the former Soviet Union, Asia, and Latin America have disappeared one by one, and been replaced with healthy democracies where the populace are finally able to live lives of freedom and peace. The realities of the post-Cold War world angers the leftists to no end. "How could an evil capitalist country like America defeat the superior principles of communism?" they ask, genuinely perplexed. America's victory was their defeat, and they have since vowed to attack America at all available opportunities. It doesn't matter if America is fighting a just war, as she did in fighting Milosevic's genocidal regime in 1996, or fighting for her own safety as she did in Afghanistan after the terrorist attacks of September 11th. Using their warped logic, America is always wrong, because America is on the side of capitalism, and no one on the side of capitalism can ever be right.

Now that we know why the "anti-war" left hates America, it is worth exploring the realities of the coming conflict in Iraq. Since leftists hate capitalism, it only logically follows that they believe capitalism must be the

motivation for this war. Without citing any sort of evidence or statistics, the "anti-war" folks claim the coming Iraqi conflict is little more than America's desire to control the Middle East's vast oil supply. The left is fond of conspiracy theories, but the "it's all about oil" theory has remained one of their all-time favourites. Of course, like most conspiracy theories this one is simply not true. America already imports thousands of barrels of Iraqi oil every day, and shipments to the US have reached an all-time high during Saddam Hussein's thirty-year regime. Despite Iraq's openly hostile regime, America's oil trade with Iraq has remained stable, and is unlikely to significantly benefit from any future war. If anything, war with Iraq will probably cause great instability within the oil markets, especially considering Saddam's well-known panache for setting reserve fires. If oil was the only thing America was after, instead of waging war you would see the Bush administration lifting sanctions, and struggling to normalize relations with Baghdad. After all, I don't see Saudi Arabia being invaded, and they control a far greater



percentage of the world's oil than Saddam.

So if oil is not the motivation, then what is? As anyone who reads a newspaper other than the *Vancouver Marxist Times* will know, Iraq possesses numerous chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction. "But so what?" the leftists cry, "So do lots of other countries!" True as that is, the fact to remember is that Iraq lost a war, and under United Nations' supervision vowed to destroy all their "weapons of mass destruction" as part of the surrender agreement. But as we all know, a promise from Saddam Hussein is worth very little, and the Iraqi regime has spent the last 12 years busily re-building their weapons in an attempt to bring themselves back to their pre-Gulf War levels of military might and influence. Even if Saddam was not blatantly violating the terms of his own surrender, there would still be more than enough reason to attack him. By claiming that "lots of nations have WMDs" leftists are trying to act as if Britain, France, and America pose as great a threat to world peace as the armed "rouge" nations such as Iraq and North Korea. Any sane person knows this is clearly not the case.

Another favorite false argument of the "anti-war" leftists is that America (or in some cases the CIA) either directly "armed" or "created" Saddam Hussein's violent regime. This argument displays a shocking ignorance of Middle Eastern history. Firstly, contrary to popular belief, Saddam Hussein did not come to power in a mil-

itary coup. As the former Vice-President of Iraq he merely inherited his current office by manipulating Iraq's ruling Ba'ath party structure, and forcing elderly President Ahmad Hassan al-Bakr into premature resignation. Saddam Hussein has always been a strong supporter of socialism, and he has even admitted that former Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin is one of his role models. The Soviets seized on Saddam's feelings, and eagerly provided him with a variety of dangerous weaponry as a way of securing Soviet influence in the region. The idea that America would have supported the rise of a dictator with such blatant communist sympathies is laughable. However, there is no denying there nevertheless existed a very brief period of cool relations with the United States during the initial period of the ten-year Iran-Iraq war. After the fanatical Muslim leader Ayatolya Khomeini seized control of Iran in 1979, Saddam Hussein waged a pre-emptive war on Iran as a way of preventing a similar Muslim revolution from spreading into Iraq. It was during this period that the United States, though remaining nominally neutral, supplied Iraq with some key intelligence information that could help Iraq curb the threat of Islamic fundamentalism. The United States was no fan of Saddam Hussein, to be sure, but under the concept of "the lesser of two evils" he was a far less dangerous threat than radical, militant Islam.

Left-wing folks believe America has always been wrong, and always will be wrong. No logic can convince them, even when we use their own arguments. Let's assume for a second that their illogical claim that "America created Saddam" is true. If anything, this should further prove the necessity of war. If America has "created" one of the world's worst regimes, should she not bear some of the responsibility for removing it? Such logic is lost on the left-wing mind. Here's another point—despite their frequent denunciations of war, how often do you hear them denounce the many wars that Saddam himself started? Where is the condemnation of Iraq's rape of Kuwait that killed thousands of innocent women and children? Or his war against that great hero of the left, Khomeini? Or how about Saddam's use of chemical weaponry to kill over a million of his own Kurdish citizens? Surely any organization that favours peace should be welcoming the overthrow of Saddam Hussein with open arms. However, as I have explained the so-called "anti-war" movement is not anti-war, anti-violence, or anything of the sort. It is a fringe group of left-wing extremists, dominated by Marxists, Anarchists, and other radicals. What exactly they hope to achieve is unclear, but it certainly is not the spread of peace and democracy. So next time you see one of their posters, watch one of their protests, or read one of their articles, remember they're what their true agenda is, and don't be afraid to voice your opposition. The left has long tried to marginalize the opinions of common-sense conservatives, and uses a wide variety of fear and intimidation tactics to censor the views of the majority. Favouring a war in Iraq does not make you a criminal or a bad person. On the contrary, it proves you have an understanding of an issue that goes beyond a bumper-sticker slogan. In a contest between style and substance, substance will always prevail.

Men Suffer Letdown Against Langara and Capilano

Jordan Cripps
Sports Editor

Coming off a thrilling weekend that saw them climb into the top spot of the BCCAA Men's Basketball Standings, the Royals hoped to increase the distance between themselves and the rest of the league with victories against Langara and Capilano. Unfortunately, somebody forgot to tell them that they weren't supposed to win as both visiting teams walked out of New Westminster Gym 96-90 winners.

Both games saw the Royals lose their composure at times as Royals players picked up three technical fouls over the weekend, including Jim Martin's two "Ts" against the Falcons, making him ineligible for the Capilano game. The 6'6" forward would certainly have impacted the outcome of the game against the smaller Blues squad.

Coming off the loss to Langara, the Royals hoped to bounce back against Capilano, getting off to a pretty quick start, thanks to a layup by Bryce MacDonald and a jumper by Ian Hogan, pacing the Royals to an early 4-2 lead. The early part of the game was a seesaw affair, as the teams traded baskets. After Ian Hogan picked up a technical foul and was taken off the floor by Coach Munro, the Blues began to use their speed and shooting to their advantage and pulled away from the Royals, taking a 17-8 lead. Interestingly, the Royals defense was able to create a number of turnovers, which led to fast-

break opportunities, but also allowed the Blues a number of good looks at the basket.

The Blues were able to capitalize on these opportunities, knocking down nine three-point shots during the opening half, accounting for nearly half of their points during the first half. As it was, the Royals simply allowed too many points during the first half and were unable to match this output. They wound up the half trailing 57-47.

The second half began much better for the Royals who were able to make an early dent in the Blues' lead as reduced their deficit to 3, 63-60, on a pair of free-throws by John Orimaco. Unfortunately for the Royals, this would be as close as they would get until the midway point of the half when Bryce MacDonald evened the score for the first time since early in the game, 81-81. The comeback was short-lived, though, as the Royals watched the Blues begin to pull away once again, this time for good, taking the game 96-90.

The Royals actually outplayed the Blues in a few areas, especially turnovers. Throughout the game, the Royals created a number of offensive chances for themselves as they intercepted passes by the Blues and went on the fast break. Unfortunately, this seemed to be one of those nights where the ball just didn't want to go in, as they were not able to convert on a number of these chances.

When it comes right down to it, the big difference in the game was that the Royals weren't able to effectively stop the offensive players on the Blues, while the Royals offensive keys were contained by the Capilano defense.

Bryce MacDonald, in one of his strongest games of the season, led the Royals offense with 21 points while Ian Hogan contributed 19 of his own.

The losses, coupled with wins by UCC, drop the Royals back into a four-way tie for second place with a record of 9-6.

Royals Scoring:

Vs. Langara	
Greg Jackson	29
Jim Martin	16
Taylor Cherris-Wilding	16
Ian Hogan	14
John Orimaco	13
Vs. Capilano	
Bryce MacDonald	21
Ian Hogan	19
Taylor Cherris-Wildin	18
John Orimaco	15
Greg Jackson	12

Despite Improved Play, Women Still Looking for First Win

Jordan Cripps
Sports Editor

Going into play last weekend, the Douglas College Women's Basketball Team was certainly showing some signs of development. Certainly the Royals had improved their offensive play considerably, averaging over 65 points per game the previous weekend against Malaspina and Camosun. Unfortunately, the offensive surge didn't translate into wins for the team as they still sought their first victory of the season.

Games against two of the top three teams in the BCCAA would prove to be another huge test and learning experience for the Royals as they faced Langara and Capilano in New Westminster. Unfortunately for the Royals, there would be no end to their losing streak as each team limited the Royals to just 40 points while Langara was able to get 91 points and Capilano scored 80 against the Royals. Despite the outcome of both games, the Royals did continue to show some signs of improvement although the scoreboard didn't really reflect this. As well, Stephanie Hibbert, showed up as the team's offensive catalyst, scoring in double figures both games.

Facing the Capilano Blues on Saturday, the Royals gave an early indication that they wanted to put an end to the streak as they matched the Blues for the first ten minutes,

keeping the score knotted at 17. At that point, though, the Royals shooting went cold and, despite some strong defensive hustle on the part of the Royals, Capilano began to pull away. By half-time, the Royals trailed 36-23.

The 13-point lead seemed to demoralize the Royals as they allowed the first six points of the second half and trailed 44-23, a lead they would never overcome. It wasn't as though the Royals didn't have their chances, though. They had a number of good opportunities at the basket but just couldn't coax the ball into the net. Throughout the entire second half, the Royals scored just 17 points. Certainly, Capilano had something to say about the outcome of the game as their defence stymied the Royals for much of the game and caused havoc as the Royals attempted to set up their offence.

The Royals offence was led by Stephanie Hibbert's 14 points while Jessy Knight chipped in 8 of her own to take Player of the Game honours.

There are some signs that the Royals are improving with each game. In their previous meeting against Capilano, the Royals scored only 35 points while giving up 100. Beyond the statistics, there is a sense that the

team is more confident about what they need to do on the court. During the early stages of the game against Capilano, they were able to control the tempo and keep the Blues from getting too many points off turnovers and were able to get a few defensive stops of their own. All of these are signs that the team is learning from each game and is putting this knowledge to use.

Royals Scoring:

Vs. Langara	
Stephanie Hibbert	13
Jessica Mui	8
Megan Hall	6
Jennifer Dalrymple	6
Jessy Knight	5
Vs. Capilano	
Stephanie Hibbert	14
Jessy Knight	8
Megan Hall	7
Jessica Mui	5
Jennifer Dalrymple	4

DC Updates

Volleyball

Douglas College Royals
Volleyball
February 7-8, 2003

Shipwrecked!

(CSRW)—The Douglas College Royals Volleyball teams entered the weekend on a serious roll. The Royal men were just one match shy of .500 on the season, and had won five of six during a long and successful home stand. The women's team threatened to do some serious damage in the last four weeks of the regular season. They'd also enjoyed playing eight of the last nine matches with home court advantage; as of Thursday, they'd won four straight and taken six of their last eight to hold sole possession of fourth place in the BCCAA.



But road losses to the league's top two teams saw the men limp away from Vancouver Island with a tenuous hold on the sixth and final playoff spot. The women also dropped both matches, and watched three teams leapfrog them in the standings; they now sit in seventh, with only three weeks left to climb back into the playoff picture.

Victoria's Camosun Chargers and Nanaimo's Malaspina Mariners each ousted Douglas with straight-sets victories in week eight of BCCAA play.

The men's volleyball has a chance to redeem themselves next Friday. On February 14 at 8:15p.m., they visit the lowly Langara Falcons in Vancouver. On Saturday, February 15 at 8 p.m., they visit the fourth-place Capilano College Blues in North Vancouver.

The women started at 6:30p.m. on Friday the 14th against the Falcons. The two teams were tied in points, but Langara held a match in hand. 6:00p.m. Saturday presents a tougher assignment for the Royals, as they serve it up to the 10-4, second-place Blues.

The next Royals volleyball home date is February 21, when they host the CBC Bearcats. The BCCAA provincial tournament runs February 27th-March 1st at Malaspina in Nanaimo. The CCAA nationals are two weeks later, with the women's tournament in Quebec City, Quebec, and the men's tourney in Oshawa, Ontario.

Jason Kurylo

Basketball

Douglas College Royals Men's
Basketball
February 7-8, 2003

Royals alone on top

(CSRW)—The Douglas College Royals men's basketball team climbed out of a logjam to stand atop the BCCAA standings after scoring their first two home wins of the season. With only five games remaining in the season, the Royals hold the number one seat and hope they'll keep it—Douglas hosts the BCCAA Provincial Championships from March 6-8 in New Westminster.

The Royals, whose impressive 7-1 road record is by far tops in the province—and is a big part of their current number ten national ranking—took advantage of a homecoming date against the basement-dwelling Camosun Chargers to post their first home win of the campaign.

Friday's 88-76 win goes in the books as a 12-point victory, but it shouldn't have been as close as it was. The Royals jumped out to a quick 15-7 lead, and pretty much held the visitors at arm's length for much of the game. DC led by 17 at one point, 60-43. The Chargers wouldn't go away, however, and put together a 19-6 run to pull within four points. The Royals found their outside shot just in time, and pulled away for the 12-point win.



New Westminster's Taylor Cherris-Wilding, coming off a BCCAA Player of the Week award two weeks ago, posted a team-high 26 points and five assists. Bryce MacDonald (14 points), Greg Jackson (13 points), John Orimaco (12 points), and Ian Hogan (11 points) all reached double digits in the win.

"I don't think we were as sharp as we could have been," said Royals Coach David Munro, wishing the point spread was just a bit bigger. "We got the win, but we failed to deliver the knockout punch when we had the chance."

On Saturday night, DC continued their consistent offense while tightening up the defense in a 89-68 win over the Malaspina Mariners. The Royals trailed by six points midway through the first half before going on a 23-10 run to take a 45-38 lead into the dressing room. An 11-2 run near the

beginning of the second half broke open what had been a defensive battle, and the home team had their second straight win in New Westminster.

"This was another nice win for us," said Munro, noting the Mariners' lack of a playoff spot has more to do with league parity than team weakness. "Malaspina has some very talented players and they are capable of beating any team on any given night."

Orimaco was money from three-point land, and led both teams with 28 points. He threw in six rebounds and three assists for good measure. Jim Martin came off the bench for 15 points and 8 rebounds, while Cherris-Wilding chipped in 14 points and 8 assists. Jackson had 14 points, while Hogan had 10 points in the win.

The Royals look to increase their lead on the five teams tied for second on Valentine's Day, when they host Vancouver's Langara Falcons. Saturday night sees the Capilano Blues hit the New West gym. Game time both nights is 8:00p.m.

In women's action, the Royals dropped two more this weekend, and fall to 0-13 on the season. Despite improved play and a drastic increase in offensive output, the Royals were unable to snag their first win, losing 77-65 to the Camosun Chargers and 89-67 to the Malaspina Mariners.

The women continue their search for win number one next Friday against the third-place Langara Falcons (tipoff 6:30 pm), and Saturday versus the number two seeded Capilano Blues (tipoff at 6:00p.m.)

Jason Kurylo

Women's Rugby

Premier Division:

(CSRW)—The Douglas Premier women's team travelled to Nanaimo on Saturday, Feb. 8th, and had to come from behind to salvage a 12-12 tie. The single point puts them into first place in the standings, although Burnaby RFC has a game in hand.

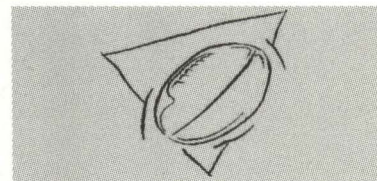
The Nanaimo Hurricanes, coached by former Douglas player and coach Pam Hadikin, were very strong on defense, and shut down the Douglas offense (averaging 30 points per game) for most of the day.

Neither team was able to amount a sustained attack for most of the first half. Nanaimo took the lead when an errant pass went directly into the hands of a pursuing Hurricane defender, who turned around and sprinted 40 metres unmolested for the

first try of the game. The convert was missed.

Douglas took control in the waning moments of the half, and winger Amber Cummings touched down in the corner (5-5).

The second half continued to be a back and forth struggle, as both teams turned over possession several times. The Hurricanes penetrated the Douglas 22 metre line for the first time in the period and caught the Douglas backs out of position. The ball was sent wide and the Nanaimo winger sped around the outside for her second try. The convert made it 12-5.



Douglas was desperate in the last 15 minutes, and finally seemed to have found their game. After being held up in-goal on two occasions, quick ball movement found Cummings open again and she burst through the defense for her second score. With time almost gone, Kirstie Smith stepped up and made the conversion to give Douglas a single point in the standings.

Corinne Jacobsen was the outstanding player for Douglas.

Douglas takes on the Emerald City Mudhens from Seattle in an exhibition contest next Saturday at 1:00p.m. at Queens Park in New Westminster.

Second Division:

The Douglas 2nd Division team took on UBC in an exhibition game this Sunday Feb. 9th., and came out with a 15-0 victory.

Douglas came out flying and scored the only three tries of the match in the first 20 minutes. Lindsey Heer, a member of the Provincial champion U-18 team and playing in her first senior woman's game, scored the first try after a 30 metre run. Within minutes, Tanya Leigh added a second score.

Five minutes later, Douglas stole a UBC line-out ball deep in their own end and sent the ball along the back-line to winger Rebecca Joberg (Elgin Park HS, Surrey). Joberg sped along the wide side for 70 metres and scored the final points of the game. Joberg was also playing in her first game of senior women's rugby after playing in the scrum for the Douglas U-18's.

Douglas resumes league play next Sunday Feb. 16th, when they host Kamloops at 2:00p.m. at Queens Park.—Dave Pearcey
—Director of Women's Rugby

The Students' Union Pride Collective meets
Wednesdays at 4:00pm in the Pride Resource
Room (Room 110 in the Students' Union
Building). All lesbian, gay, bi, transgendered,
questioning and allied students are welcome.

I am not
my gender.

Douglas Students' Union
Local 18-Canadian Federation of Students



Douglas Sports at a Glance

Scores and Schedules

Jordan Cripps
Sports Editor

Rugby

Women:

Premier	Douglas 12	Nanaimo 12
Division II	Douglas 15	UBC 0 (Exhibition)

West Coast Women's Rugby Association Standings

Premier	GP	W	L	T	D	PTS
Douglas	11	8	2	1	0	33
Burnaby	10	8	1	0	1	32
James Bay	11	8	3	0	0	32
SFU	10	6	4	0	0	24
Capilano	12	5	7	0	0	16
Nanaimo	12	4	6	1	1	17
UBC	12	3	9	0	0	12
UVIC	12	2	10	0	0	8

Division II	GP	W	L	T	D	PTS
Abbotsford	7	7	0	0	0	14
Douglas	8	6	1	1	0	13
UBC	8	4	4	0	0	8
Capilano	9	4	4	0	1	8
SFU	8	2	6	0	0	4
Kamloops	10	1	8	1	0	3

Men:

Fraser Valley Rugby Union Standings

Division I	GP	W	L	T	D	PTS
Abbotsford	9	8	1	0	0	32
Langley	8	6	2	0	0	24
Kamloops	8	6	2	0	0	24
SFU	8	3	6	0	0	12
Surrey	9	3	6	0	0	12
Douglas	8	2	6	0	0	8
Richmond	8	2	6	0	0	8

Division II	GP	W	L	T	D	PTS
Langley	10	10	0	0	0	40
Kamloops	10	8	2	0	0	32
Abbotsford	10	7	3	0	0	28
Douglas	10	5	5	0	0	20
SFU	10	3	7	0	0	12
Surrey	10	3	7	0	0	12
Richmond	10	3	6	0	1	11
Chilliwack	10	1	9	0	0	4

Basketball

Men:

Feb.8	Douglas 89	Malaspina 68
Feb. 14	Langara 96	Douglas 90
Feb. 15	Capilano 96	Douglas 90

Women:

Feb. 8	Malaspina 89	Douglas 67
Feb. 14	Langara 91	Douglas 40
Feb. 15	Capilano 80	Douglas 40

BCCAA Men's Basketball Standings

Team	G	W	L	+/-	PTS
UCC	14	10	4	+141	20
Kwantlen	15	10	5	+130	20
UCFV	14	9	5	+127	18
UNBC	14	9	5	-13	18
Douglas	15	9	6	+91	18
Capilano	15	9	6	+39	18
Langara	15	8	7	+10	16
Malaspina	14	7	7	+13	14
Okanagan	14	1	13	-237	2
Camosun	14	0	14	-297	0

BCCAA Women's Basketball Standings

Team	G	W	L	+/-	PTS
UCFV	14	14	0	+363	28
Capilano	15	12	3	+236	24
Langara	15	10	5	+144	20
UNBC	14	9	5	+102	18
Malaspina	14	8	6	+69	16
UCC	14	7	7	+160	14
Okanagan	14	6	8	-32	12
Kwantlen	15	4	11	-122	8
Camosun	14	2	12	-307	4
Douglas	13	0	13	-613	0

Volleyball

Men:

Feb. 8	Malaspina 3	Douglas 0
	25-14, 25-15, 25-19	
Feb.14	Douglas 3	Langara 0
	26-24, 25-21, 25-21	
Feb.15	Capilano 3	Douglas 0
	25-18, 25-19, 25-21	

Women:

Feb. 8	Malaspina 3	Douglas 0
	25-18, 25-13, 25-11	
Feb.14	Langara 3	Douglas 2
	23-25, 16-25, 25-22, 25-11, 15-8	
Feb. 15	Capilano 3	Douglas 0
	25-17, 25-21, 25-22	

BCCAA Women's Volleyball Standings

Team	MP	W	L	PTS
Malaspina	16	15	1	30
Capilano	16	12	4	24
UCC	16	10	6	20
Okanagan	16	10	6	20
Langara	16	10	6	20
Camosun	16	9	7	18
Douglas	17	8	9	16
COTR	16	4	12	8
CNC	16	2	14	4
CBC	17	1	16	2

BCCAA Men's Volleyball Standings

Team	MP	W	L	PTS
Camosun	16	14	2	28
Malaspina	16	14	2	28
COTR	16	11	5	22
Capilano	16	11	5	22
CBC	17	8	9	16
Douglas	17	7	10	14
UCC	16	6	10	12
Okanagan	16	5	11	10
Langara	16	3	13	6
CNC	16	2	14	4

Badminton

BCCAA Badminton Standings

Team	PTS
Malaspina	380
Douglas	300
Langara	280
UCC	160
Capilano	40

Upcoming Events

Feb. 20	Intramural Floor Hockey: New Westminster Gym. 12:00
Feb. 21	Volleyball: Vs. CBC. Women play at 6:30, Men play at 8:15. New Westminster Gym. Basketball: Away vs. Kwantlen. Women play at 6:30, Men play at 8:15. New Westminster Gym.
Feb. 22	Rugby: Women's Premier vs. Burnaby Mudhens. Queens Park 11:30a.m. Badminton: BCCAA Badminton Provincial Championships. Hosted by the University College of the Cariboo.
Feb. 23	Badminton: BCCAA Badminton Provincial Championships. Hosted by the University College of the Cariboo.
March 6-8	Basketball Provincials: Douglas College hosts the 2003 BCCAA Basketball Provincial Championships. Games will be played at 2,4,6,8p.m. every day in the New Westminster Gym. For more information go to www.douglas.bc.ca/csrw/provincials.htm



Dethroning King James

Patrick Kitengie
OP Contributors

The consensus no.1 pick of this year's NBA draft has seen his high school basketball career come to an end. Last week, the Ohio High School Athletic Association found LeBron James ineligible to continue his high school career since he accepted gifts worth about \$840 US. The rule which states that an athlete forfeits his or her amateur status through "capitalizing on athletic fame by receiving money or gifts of monetary value," was violated by LeBron James when he accepted throwback jerseys from a local sport store in exchange for pictures to be hung on the store walls.

LeBron's lawyer, however, is working on an appeal to allow the high school star to participate in the rest of his season games as well as the coming playoffs. LeBron's appearance at games draws so much money that his high school (St. Vincent St. Mary in Ohio) games are scheduled in an NBA size arena with 15,000 seats. ESPN2 has scheduled some games against his toughest opponents to be broadcast on national television and some games are shown on pay per view. LeBron brings money, and anything that keeps him away from the game of basketball will mean loss of money. Companies like Adidas and Nike are already fighting over his endorsement deals and it is reported that he can make about \$25 million US in endorsements.

LeBron James has already violated so many NCAA rules that he would not be permitted to participate in any sporting event organized by the association, including basketball, where every top division I school would offer him a full scholarship.

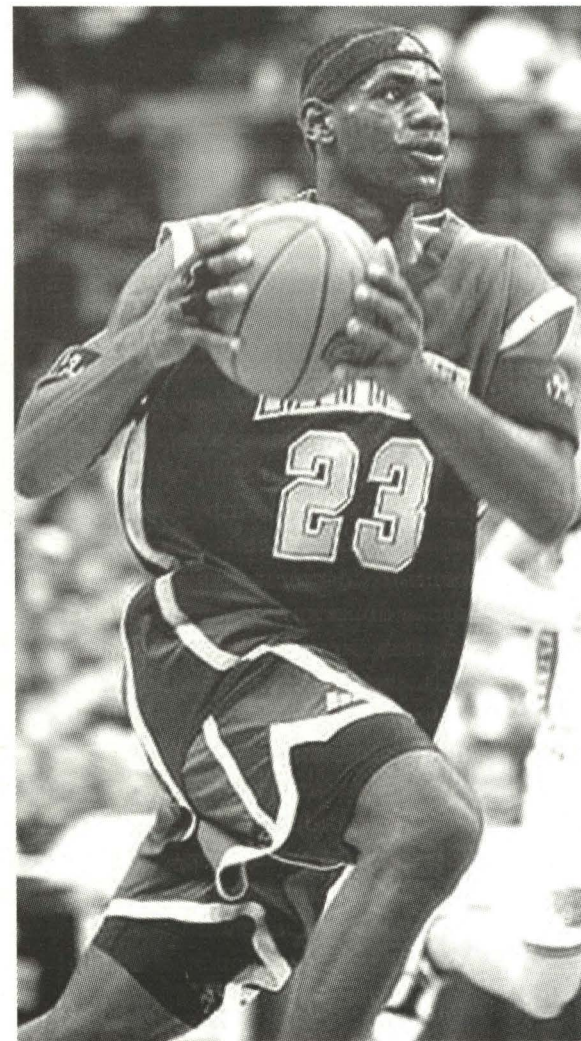
His jump from high school to the NBA doesn't come as

a surprise to basketball fans. LeBron James, a.k.a King James, wanted to go to the NBA after his sophomore season at St. Vincent St. Mary, but the NBA ruled that no high school athlete could join the NBA until they graduate from high school by completing their senior year. It was after this season that North America started to hear about King James, and now the rest of the world is catching up, and he's earning celebrity status worldwide.

He already rolls like a top professional athlete. On his 18th birthday, he received a custom made Hummer H2 as a gift from his mother. The mother later proved that she had taken a loan from a bank in order to purchase the \$50,000 vehicle, outfitted with three TVs and computer game hookups.

Players coming straight out of high school have not disappointed the NBA teams that draft them. Although they all go through a learning curve at a certain point early in their professional career, they've all gone on to prove that they were worth drafting. Players, because of their age, are often selected later in the draft than their skill level suggests. In '95, 4 teams passed on Kevin Garnett; in '96, 12 passed on Kobe Bryant; in '97, 8 passed on Tracy McGrady; and in '01, the Wizards picked Kwame Brown with their first overall pick. Come June 2003, though, King James will surely go with the first pick. For now it's only a race to see who will win the James...sweepstakes.

Note: A few days after the Ohio High School Athletic Association suspended James, an Ohio judge reduced the suspension. James will miss just two games.



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Computers

IBOOK: 500MGz Power PC G3, built-in 56k .92 modem, 256MB

SDRAM memory, CD-Rom, 12.2 inch screen, 10GB hard drive, and wireless internet capabilities. Weighing as little as 4.9 pounds, and measuring a slim 1.3 inches, the iBook is made for life on the go. For more info please call 604-838-4545. Download pictures from the net at http://homepage.mac.com/terry_c/FileSharing13.html

Housing

Quiet, large, furnished bedroom for rent. Looking for female to share 3 bedroom house with one other female. \$425 includes everything. Call 604-294-1012, or email: bossa@novus-tele.net

Shared accomodation
A quiet, furnished, single bedroom including study table, bed and closet; close to community college, transit, Coquitlam Centre mall and rec centre; cable, stove, fridge, laundry, driveway parking available.
Rent \$300 per month, plus 20% of utilities; non-smokers, no pets. Call 604-945-0398, leave a message at 604-721-9259 or email: dtsoi00@yahoo.ca

Browse the DSU Housing Registry
<www.douglasstudentsunion.ca/housing.htm>

For Sale

PEAVEY 110 bass amp, \$250 and SAMICK four string bass guitar, with hard-shell case. \$250 call Hamish 604-790-8259

ANSWERING MACHINE, white, \$10 call 604-984-3442

TABLE HOCKEY, sudden death, like new, \$40 call 604-984-3442

HOCKEY NET, red color, \$28.00 Call 604-942-3628 or email: yot1010@hotmail.com

I Saw You

Services

Tattoo Artist in Burnaby, discount for Douglas Students. Custom and Flash Designs. Call 604-351-4333 or info@rad-designs.ca

Makeup Artist/Stylist for hire; Weddings, Special Occasions, Stylist for Bands; Lessons available. Call Shannon

604-465-3366
cell: 604-928-3798

THOTH life sciences
For intreperation and translation of your astrological mandalla contact ODIN @ 604-523-1490

Tutoring Services

Learn with a tutor or become a volunteer tutor. Call ICARE at 604-527-5409

New Westminster Campus Learning Centre 2nd Floor, South Building, Room 2847. Call 604-527-5539 or email: learnctr@douglas.bc.ca

<www.tutorseverywhere.com>

Writer's Touch. Gayle Pryor 604-427-6069

Wanted

Transmission for a Plymouth Colt Mitsubishi motor. Size 2.4. Please call 604-307-3715

The Translation of the Astrological Language for the Twelve Zodiac Signs.



February 20, 2003–March 22, 2003

Well, we have entered the astrological month of Pisces. This is a month of dynamic change and internal preparation for spring. Traditionally, the planning months are Capricorn, Aquarius and Pisces. Astrology can be seen as a harvest/timing cycle. There's a time for planting and sowing, waiting, harvesting and planning. One of the points of astrology is to reconnect to nature and the natural rhythms of life. It takes a year or so to become integrated and attuned to the cycles of the earth, when this is done you'll be connected to one of the most potent forces of life—the Earth's magnetic field: an incredible and powerful force.

What are your wants and desires for the next cycle—from spring to spring? What are your core 100% desires? What is the force that brings magic into your life? What do you want to do? Who are you? Begin to peer within and discover the answers.

March 11 marks a transition into a more humanistic and free kind of personal relationships. You'll notice that there will be more tolerance and compassion within and out. I expect that all the information on the eastern and western esoteric disciplines will become more a part of daily life. Create a group of like-minded individuals and study the GREAT WORK of life.

Aries

So how's the creative imagery going? This month until March 6th is good for writing and brainstorming. Afterwards focus on helping out in the community. There's a relationship shift on March 2nd expect some excitement after this date. There's a little extra tension after March 5th. There's a good chance that you'll have a little extra work, pace yourself.

Taurus

This month is always inspiring for you; begin to plan your year's desires and activities. Which walks are you scouting? What mountains to climb? Regardless the tension of instability is almost at an end, you'll have a taste of the shift March 11th. March 6th to 11th will be good for any kind of mental work. Watch your spending habits. Look into investing and share with everyone willing to listen.

Gemini

Life seems to be getting easier for you. You've grown stronger over the last year. Have you found a good mentor? Or mentors? Look into how the mind works, perhaps philosophy. February 20th to March 4th choose your words with tact and poise, there's a little extra will and force in your life till then. Be wise, patient and persistent, your point will be listened to.

Cancer

Fortunate you are to be in such a time. Cancer's are breezing by with little stress. Well, individually each has its own. Look to the moon for your keys to life. Pisces will nurture your need for an emotionally secure environment. Be secure with your decisions. Jump into something fun this month, do something different. What have you always wanted to do?

Leo

Change is eminent for life; its how you handle it that will count. Let those close know that you are sensitive and ask for the respect you know you deserve. Do you know

yourself 100percent? This month is your chance to dig deep into your soul and discover the gold mine. March 2-22nd examine the kind of friends you really want. Spend money on long-term investments. Love looks good; perhaps create something for your special someone.

Virgo

Pisces challenges you to let go of the mind and relax in the spirit of the moment. Everything is perfect already. Can you find the joy of the moment? March 6–22 will present you with a chance to put your imagination into action. Be extra creative in handling your growth opportunities. Only a few more months before there's smooth sailing. Currently the details are being worked out. Continue to apply and perfect your skills. A good time for positive action is from March 5–22nd. What do you want to accomplish?

Libra

I'll prepare you for the next couple of years now. The time has come to assure that you have a solid foundation in your home and career. Make your plans now so that when the time comes you have everything in order and prepared. How much time do you have before the change? Well, about five months, plenty of time for planning. When prepared in advance, using mental magic, all will go YOUR way in perfect balance.

Scorpio

Firmly establish your work ethics, it's a good time to re-evaluate what they mean to you. Consider learning more about desire, sex and investing-money. It's important to be open-minded. Laugh about life, with it and at it. What's so serious about it? I'd love to see more of you seriously make me laugh, that's the greatest work. In general, it's a good month, if you can handle the stress. I know you can, do you?

Sagittarius

What's important for you currently is fun. Did you know that there's a pub night that the OP is sponsoring? Get

away from reality for a while and come party with us. Tell all your friends. There's a lot of force for you this month, I recommend listening; you will find the greatest rewards from life from this one gesture. Love looks good from March 2–22. Be practical and finish what you start. Do some psychological probing.

Capricorn

Like Libra, it's generally been ok for you over the last year. Read their message for a clue. Continue to work hard, the rewards will be showing soon, perhaps already they are. Find someone to mentor; you have a lot to teach those who need your sound insights. Learn something new this month.

Aquarius

There's going to be a cosmic shift for you March 11th. Look into more spiritual matters. Perhaps you can study the effect of energy on the body. Is it possible to speed up the awakening process of humanity? Think with compassion; what is your truth and The Truth. One is personal, the other universal. Perhaps start a book of universal principles and laws. Here's one: the principle of polarity.

Pisces

Happy Birthday. We share the same birth month. Personally, this year has been one of discovery and perhaps too much work. My lesson has been to slow down and take a few breaths alone. Work, work, work. It's important for you to put your dreams and desires into action. Pay attention to your health, eat well and drink 12 glasses of water a day. Perhaps its good to maintain a good exercise habit too. This month will re-energize you for the year ahead. Celebrate with many blessings.

By Odin Xavier
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